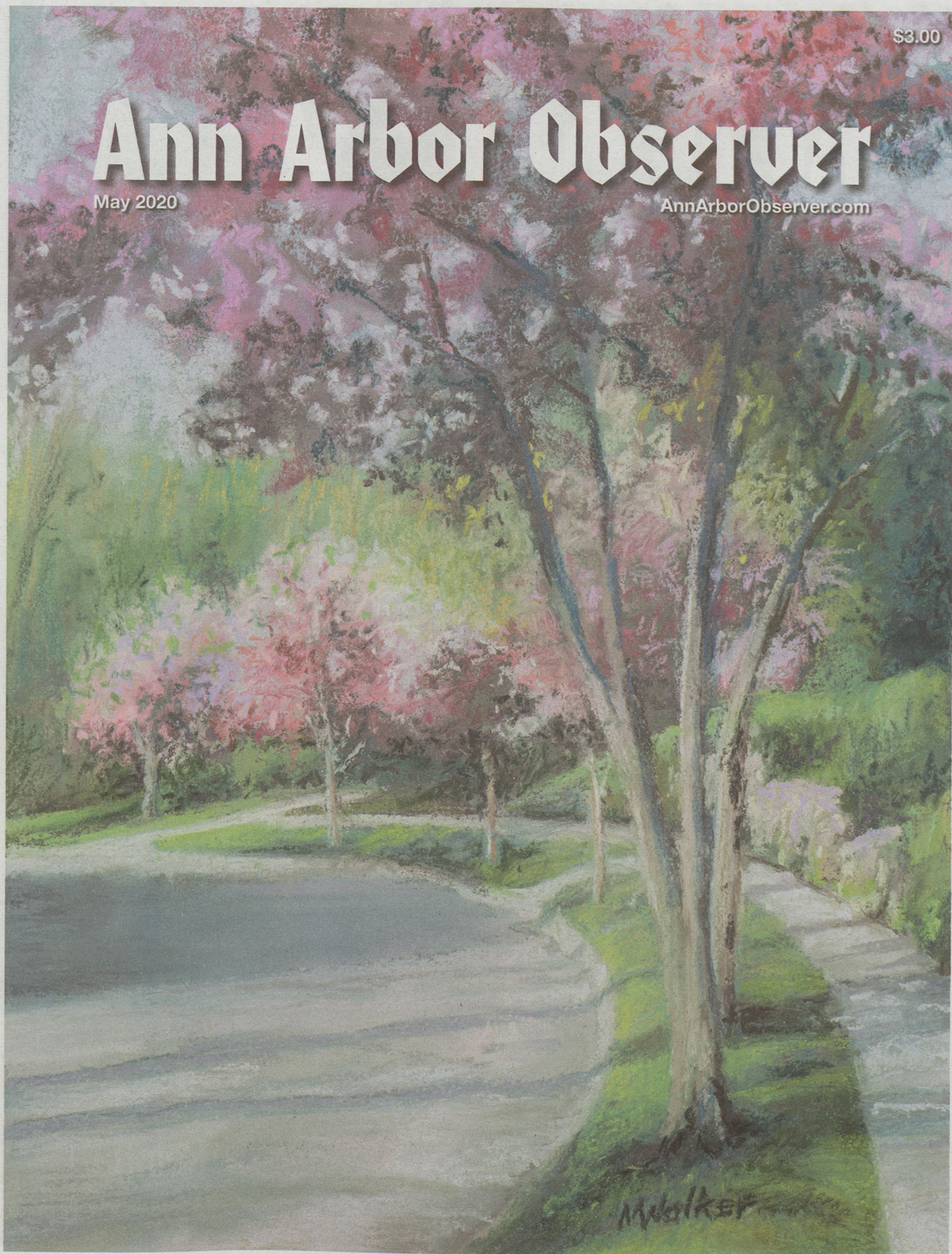


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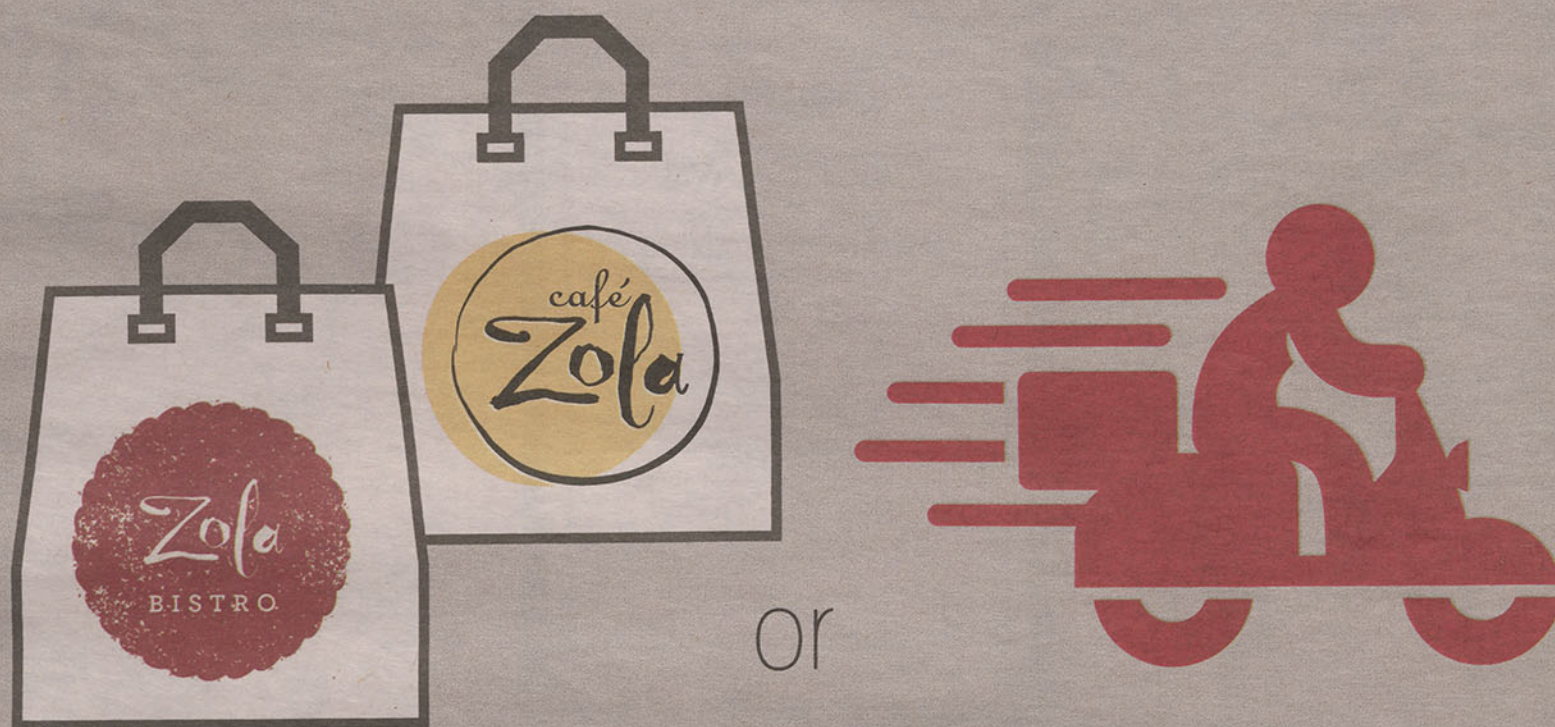
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When to Look for Senior Living: Why Timing is Everything



Christina Kim
ckim@silvermaples.org

Imagine that the next episode of your favorite TV show debuts tonight, and you're tired of watching it on your small, outdated television. If you wanted to, you could head to the store right now, pick out the latest, greatest model, and be back on your sofa hours before the opening credits start to roll. Because TVs are readily available commodities, sold at any number of nearby stores, it's easy to get exactly what you want, at the exact time you want it.

When it comes to finding a senior living community, though, it's not as simple as waiting until you want to move in. Due to the high occupancy rates at some communities, prolonging your search until you're ready to move could mean spending a year or longer on a waiting list. And, unlike buying a TV, it may be difficult to find a comparable alternative to a community you fell in love with. In this article, we'll recommend the ideal age to begin your search and explain why it's important to start before you're actually ready to move.

At What Age Should You Start Finding a Senior Living Community?

While there is no "perfect" age to start considering a senior living community, the ideal age is most definitely earlier than you think. Take it from Donna and her husband Johan who have called Silver Maples home for the last decade.

"When we were in our early 70s, we had no desire to think about a retirement community — period! But, when one of our friends made the move to Silver Maples, we decided to take a look for ourselves and were pleasantly surprised by what we found. We took advantage of the VIP Stay, an overnight stay in the community, which gave us a good sense of the lifestyle that was being offered.

Now, ten years later, we have absolutely no regrets."

The takeaway? The best time to look for a senior living community could be when you least want or need to! Our recommendation is to start your search in your late 60s or early 70s. Although it may seem strange to begin this process before you feel ready to move, it's important to remember that you're doing this for the "future you." In the future, you may find yourself tired of dealing with yardwork, household maintenance or costly home repairs. You may decide that you're ready to put down your oven mitts — at least occasionally — and let someone else do the cooking. Or, you might even feel an urge to broaden your social circle, with an array of events, trips, and programs that make life interesting.

Exploring independent living options

now, puts you in a much better position to take action when or if the time feels right.

Choosing a Senior Living Community Is a Journey, Not an Event

Deciding where you want to spend the next chapter of your life isn't a decision anyone should make overnight. There are many variables to consider, including proximity to loved ones, amenities and services offered, variety of dining, social programming and access to healthcare, just to name a few. Perhaps the most important variable, though, is the way the community itself makes you feel when you visit. This isn't something you can get a sense for by browsing a website or reading a brochure. It requires you to set aside the time to truly immerse yourself in the culture of the community.

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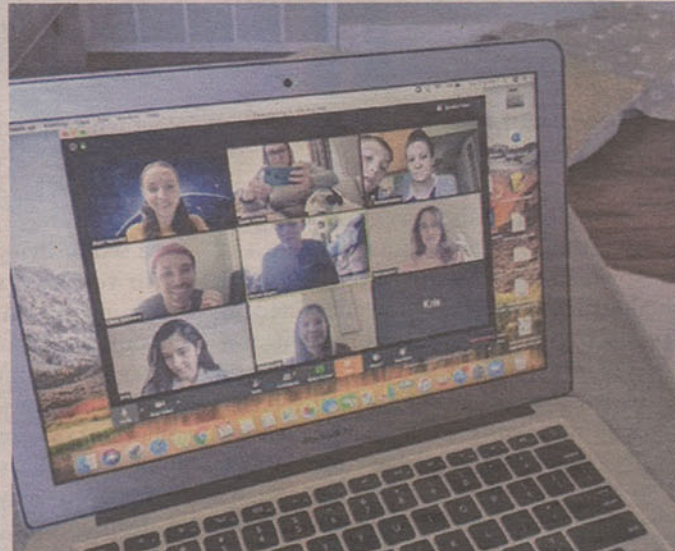
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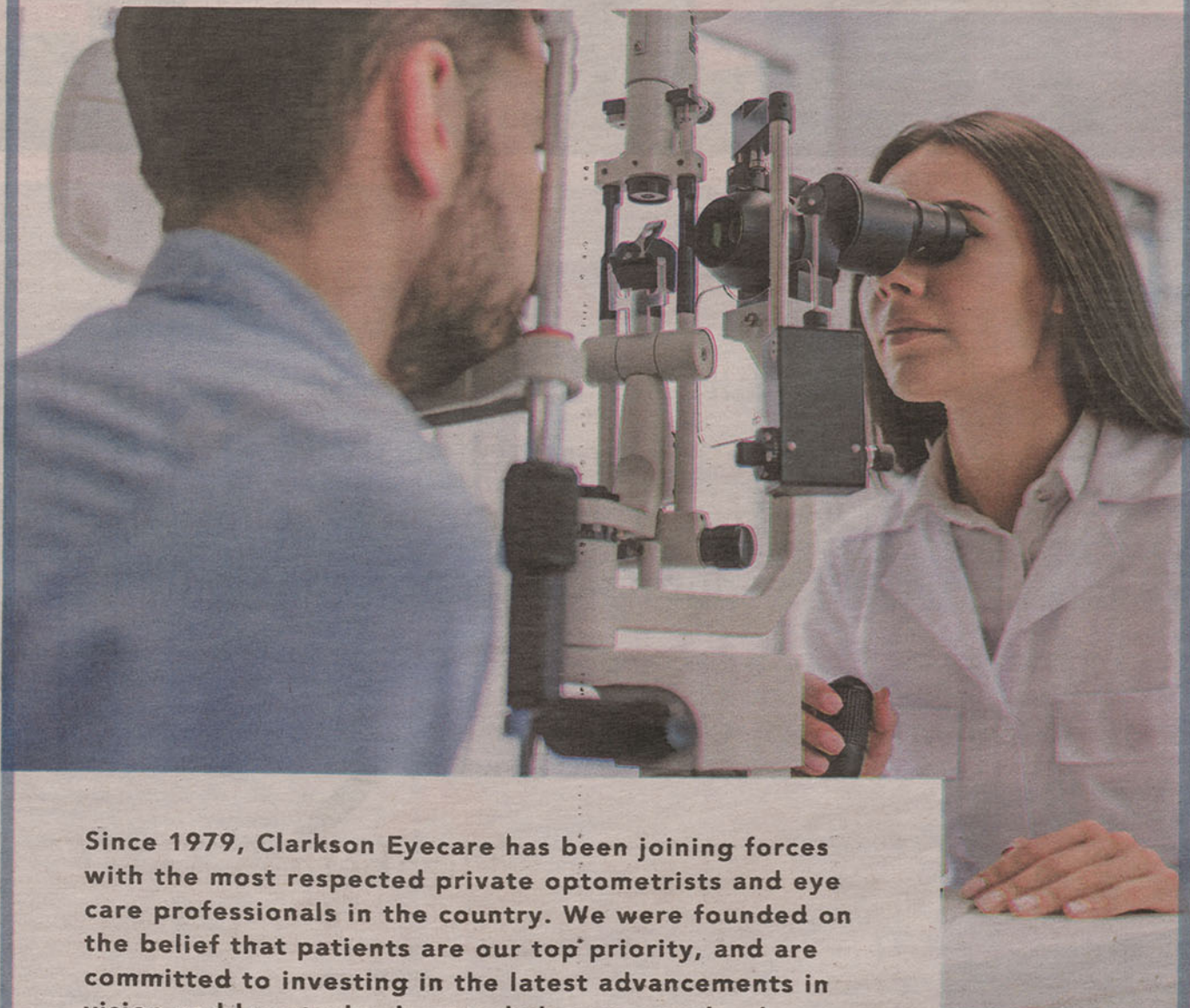
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Ann Arbor Observer

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Cover: Crabapples on Awixa Rd. Pastel painting by Marty Walker.

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With large gatherings prohibited at least through the end of April due to the Covid-19 pandemic, most major events in May have been canceled. These listings include virtual events and a few still expected to take place as of April 20; for current information, see AnnArborObserver.com. Virtual exhibits at local Galleries are listed on p. 45; our Kids Calendar is on p. 46. Plus alternative activities and a review of Mr. B's weekly livestream.

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**Ann Arbor Area
Community Foundation**

Enduring Support

A MESSAGE FOR OUR COMMUNITY

For more than a half century, thousands of community members have invested in Washtenaw County through endowment gifts large and small. Because of that loyalty to community, **the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation (AAACF) can give significantly in this time of crisis.**

Since mid-March, AAACF has already deployed more than \$1 million across our community.

Enacting our mission to support the quality of life in Washtenaw County now and forever, AAACF is mobilizing grants, cross-sector conversations, and short-term cash flow loans to nonprofits.

With continuous input from local residents, we will provide support driven by data and done in collaboration. We will prioritize flexible grants that address communities disproportionately affected by this pandemic and to organizations led by members of those communities.

AAACF has renewed unrestricted funding for our current operating support grantees, suspended grant reporting deadlines, and converted grants for programs into general operating support. Annual payouts from endowments held for 125+ local nonprofits will continue.

We remain a resource on community philanthropy. We offer no-obligation conversations on ways to endow support for nonprofits in perpetuity, legislative incentives for giving, and options for naming the community in your estate plans.

We are more committed than ever — as the dedicated endowment for Washtenaw County — to supporting our community with funding during this crisis and in the post-pandemic future.

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AAACF was built by the community, for the community, and we are working with the community to weather this crisis together. Thank you for your ongoing partnership!

UpFront

Small business lifeline: The local Song Foundation donated \$1 million to the Washtenaw County Small Business Emergency Relief Fund at the end of March. "Having worked in kitchens and restaurants in Ann Arbor over the years, my wife Linh and I know how critical these local businesses and jobs are in our community," foundation co-founder Dug Song said in a statement.

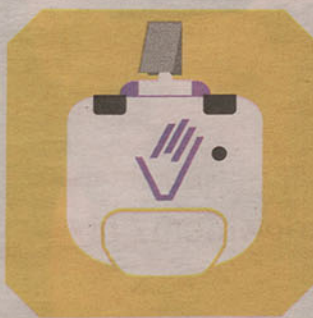


While the \$2 trillion U.S. CARES Act and the \$10 million Michigan Economic Development Corporation programs will help in upcoming weeks, "these businesses have needs today and cannot afford to wait for help," emails Peter Katz, the foundation's secretary. "[M]any of these businesses will not exist tomorrow if they do not receive assistance today." Depending on size, the fund is making grants of up to \$5,000.

"We need small business employment to continue to be the backbone of economic opportunity," Song writes. "Small businesses are critical to our region and provide meaningful jobs that support our local community."

The Songs no longer have to work in restaurants themselves. Dug cofounded Duo Security—which Cisco bought in 2018 for \$2.3 billion.

BioVigil's boom: "This is certainly the right time and place for our service," says Sanjay Gupta. Gupta (no relation to the CNN medical consultant) is CEO of local start-up BioVigil. "It's not a matter of if the company will do well, but when," he says. "And the when is now, as we help combat this deadly virus."



While many local businesses are struggling or shutting down during the Covid-19 pandemic, hospitals, long-term care facilities, and food service firms are pounding on the company's door. That's because BioVigil's technology has shown success in promoting the single most useful intervention to control the pandemic: washing hands frequently and thoroughly.

When handwashing guidelines aren't followed—at home, at the workplace, or in hospitals—bacteria and viruses easily pass from person to person, sometimes with deadly consequences. Institutions use BioVigil's technology to monitor how well their staffs are complying with the rules.

"We saw great potential—and great need—for improvements in hand sanitization in hospitals and healthcare facilities long before the Covid-19 crisis,"

Gupta says. "We have a clear solution that works."

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, almost 75,000 Americans died last year from health care-associated infections—many stemming from lax hand hygiene. Published studies found that, on average, hospital workers washed their hands only 10 to 50 percent of the time when they entered or exited a patient room.

BioVigil's system includes sensors installed in patient rooms and badges worn by healthcare workers. Each time they enter or exit, the workers must hold their hand near the badge. The chemical sensors determine whether the professionals have washed their hands appropriately. The data is uploaded at the end of every shift—but it's also displayed on the badge. A green light indicates the caregiver is good to go, a yellow light is a reminder to sanitize, and a red light shows noncompliance.

Gupta says that published pre-Covid studies found that more than 97 percent compliance after BioVigil's system was installed, reducing patient infections by up to 83 percent.

Understandably, the scrutiny hasn't always been popular with workers. But in the pandemic, resistance appears to have faded—and according to Gupta, another study found that workers using BioVigil's system are healthier themselves.

"We're in the business of saving lives," he says. "Needless to say, this is a very busy time for us."

Pets in the pandemic: Like many nonprofits, the Humane Society of Huron Valley took a financial hit when Michigan shut down. CEO Tanya Hilgendorf says the shelter gets about 40 percent of its income from its programs, events, and activities that are now on hold. With so many people suffering financially and nervous about the future, donations also are down—though HSHV reinvented its largest fundraiser, Walk and Wag, as a virtual event (see Events, May 16).

To stay solvent, they've furloughed twenty-seven of their 108 staff members and suspended the Love Train program, which rescues animals from shelters with high euthanasia rates. But while nonessential exams and sterilizations are at a standstill, curbside appointments remain available at its veterinary clinic, along with telemedicine appointments for pets whose owners have been exposed to the virus or at high risk from it.

With the reduced staff observing social distancing rules, and without the volunteers who collectively do the work of about sixty full-time employees, adop-

tions are proceeding more slowly now, but Hilgendorf says people have been "very patient."

Paradoxically, "this is a great time to adopt," she says, "because families are at home and have time on their hands for good acclimation and training." HSHV has also added a "private adoption" page to its website, hshv.org. Though they don't take responsibility for the postings, it's a place where individuals seeking to place or adopt a pet can connect directly.

The shelter's Emergency Harbor program takes in pets whose owners who are sick, hospitalized, or lack stable housing. In early April, Hilgendorf emailed, they

were caring for the "super, sweet pup of a couple who are both in the hospital for Covid-19." The animals "typically stay in our shelter," but more than 250 people have completed foster training online, and plenty of homes are

available if needed.

Hilgendorf was encouraged early last month when a longtime HSHV supporter pledged \$75,000 for a matching gift campaign in response to the Covid crisis. "HSHV has been here since 1896," she says. "As long as we're still standing, we'll be here to take care of the animals who need us most."

Unflushables: By the second week of the Covid-19 pandemic in Michigan, car manufacturing stopped, bars closed, restaurants went to takeout only, and even liquor stores saw their sales cut in half. But grocery stores and pharmacies are flourishing—and so is the plumbing business. According to the Roto-Rooter tech who recently cleared a west side drain, business almost doubled in the weeks after the shutdown. While folks have always tried flushing all sorts of stuff down their toilets, from dental floss to paper towels, with toilet paper in short supply they're also flushing more of those supposedly "flushable wipes."

Congresswoman Debbie Dingell offers a word of timely advice: "Even though

a wipe says it's biodegradable doesn't mean it can be flushed down the toilet," she warns in "Debbie's Blog." "With everyone home we have seen a spike in these being flushed down the toilet

which will cause blockages in sump pumps and pipes that are on septic systems. During this time, let's make sure we stick to the 3 P's of what goes in your toilet: Pee, Poo and (toilet) Paper."



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When we do get out we will be behind, as you surely expect. The good news is we will have enough help this year to be able to do more with the time we have.

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Inside Ann Arbor

Chain of Command I

Was the city administrator fired for resisting “backroom pressure”?

After city council voted seven-four to terminate the contract of city administrator Howard Lazarus in February, former councilmember Sally Hart Petersen excoriated the members who orchestrated the ouster:

“The decision to terminate our city administrator without cause undermines the long-term integrity and stability of the administrator’s role,” she said angrily. “It undermines morale of city employees, it is fiscally irresponsible, and it is an insult to all city residents who rely on our administrator’s leadership authority and keen decision-making.”

Mayor Christopher Taylor and his council allies voted against the firing, which triggered a \$275,000 severance package. Taylor, Zach Ackerman, and Chip Smith say they got dozens of emails supporting their position. “The quintessential email is, ‘Hey, I’ve lived here for fifty years. I’ve never ever contacted my council person. I’m really disappointed in this decision,’” says Smith.

Councilmember Ali Ramlawi, who voted for the termination, says he also got “about two dozen” emails from constituents—though he says the people he heard from were more upset about the severance pay and “the lack of transparency.”

Ramlawi, Kathy Griswold, Jeff Hayner, and Elizabeth Nelson were elected in 2018 to seats previously held by members of what the Observer calls the “Activist Coalition,” led by Taylor and his predecessor, John Hieftje. They joined veterans Anne Bannister, Jack Eaton, and Jane Lumm to flip control of council to what we call the “Back to Basics Caucus.”

Ramlawi notes that the separation agreement requires confidentiality as well as mutual non-disparagement. Because the administrator serves at the pleasure of council, he adds, the reasons “don’t



J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Howard Lazarus in happier days. He says he only learned that council’s new majority planned to fire him a week before the vote.

matter.” But in a February *Ann Arbor News* article, he described it as a response to Taylor’s “ruling by veto.”

The new majority can pass legislation with seven votes—but lacks the eighth needed to override a mayoral veto. Last year, Taylor blocked their attempts to redirect money from a county millage, and to hold a public vote on switching to nonpartisan city elections.

Council voted unanimously to hire Lazarus in 2016. But the Back to Basics group soon soured: when council voted on a proposed raise and bonus in 2018, Eaton, Lumm, and Sumi Kailasapathy opposed both. Last year, after the new majority took power, attorney and political operative Tom Wieder emailed Eaton about “working to get our 5th and 6th votes” to block another raise or bonus. Griswold joined Bannister, Eaton, and Lumm in voting against both. However, Ramlawi and Nelson gave the administrator a partial endorsement, supporting the bonus but not the raise.

“So much for firing Lazarus, or for the 2018 elections making any significant difference in how the city is run,” Wieder emailed Bannister and six others whose names were redacted shortly afterward.

(The emails were released in response to a Freedom of Information Act request by Luis Vazquez). Lumm replied that Lazarus “continues to inappropriately overstep his authority and demonstrate his disregard for council’s authority ... to SET policy.”

In an email to a constituent, Lumm attributed the termination to a “change in policy direction on council after the 2018 election.” Lazarus agrees council changed with a new majority—but says that he “complied with every resolution that council as a whole has adopted.”

The termination agreement included a mutual “non-disparagement” clause, and the former administrator observes it scrupulously. But Taylor contends that Lazarus “was terminated because of his refusal to submit to backroom pressure. It was an exercise in dominance, and he would not be dominated.”

“The core issue is chain of command,” Taylor asserts with uncharacteristic intensity. “And they violated it. They talked to staff, and they demanded that he break the chain of command. They wanted him to do what they wanted to do without being able to pass a resolution to that effect.”

“Chain of command requires that staff report to the city administrator,” says mayor Christopher Taylor—“not to city council as a whole or particular city councilmembers trying to influence the actions of staff members.”

“Howard is a military man [who] honors chain of command. Chain of command requires that staff report to the city administrator—not to city council as a whole or particular city councilmembers trying to influence the actions of staff members.”

Nelson declined to be interviewed about the termination. Ramlawi says what changed his mind was Lazarus applying for a job in Florida as Gainesville’s city administrator last summer.

In a surfeit of transparency, Gainesville posted Lazarus’s application online—including his explanation for seeking work elsewhere. “The new members [of council] seek to chart new directions, often leading to conflict and terse public deliberations,” he wrote. “The new majority also has expressed a different definition of the role of the City Administrator. The current climate has placed me in a difficult and vulnerable position.”

The firing proved just how vulnerable the administrator was. Lazarus says he learned it was in motion only a week before the vote when city attorney Stephen Postema “came in and told me that two of the council members [Eaton and Lumm] had approached him and said that they wanted to terminate the contract.”

How did they line up support without public discussion or violating the Open Meetings Act? It “wasn’t a backroom cabal,” Ramlawi says. “There were a lot of individual conversations that my colleagues had where the city administrator [was discussed], all independently of each other.” But “we as a group didn’t talk about it.”

“There was nothing particularly secretive going on,” Nelson emails. “Only thing worth clarifying: this was not a big surprise, anyone who claims it was a surprise is not telling the truth.”

“It was a huge surprise,” Taylor responds. “The presence of tension was not a surprise, but the firing was. [Lazarus] knew that it was possible. He didn’t think it was probable.”

“The contract I have has some very specific [legal] terms as to what determines ‘for cause,’” Lazarus says. “A lot of it deals with behavior. And none of those provisions were met.”

“There are times where some [councilmembers] have expressed displeasure over certain issues, and I think that’s their right to do that. But it’s to be expected. But I’ve felt like I’ve always engaged



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Inside Ann Arbor

in respectful exchanges with all the councilmembers."

The firing left the city without an administrator just as the Covid-19 emergency hit. Finance chief Tom Crawford is filling the role on an interim basis, and the search for a replacement hasn't begun yet.

The mayor suspects the next administrator may have to be paid more: "The termination of Mr. Lazarus, a gentleman of credibility and character, without cause would give qualified candidates pause before considering or taking an offer made by the current council."



MARK BIALEK

Chain of Command II

The firing of city administrator Howard Lazarus was timely for police chief Mike Cox.

A West Point grad, Howard Lazarus believes strongly in respecting chains of command. According to mayor Christopher Taylor, that's what put him at odds with the councilmembers who removed him in February. It's also what got police chief Mike Cox in trouble over a parking ticket-fixing investigation in his department—and spared him formal punishment for violating a direct order from the administrator.

Cox came here last September after retiring from the Boston police department, only to be put on leave six months later over his role in the parking investigation. An outside report by law firm Miller Canfield found that Cox "appeared to attempt to convince people not to conduct an investigation into a supervisor" and "evidence [showed] that people feared retaliation by the Chief."

Lazarus put Cox on administrative leave, and directed him not to discuss the case; after a new internal investigation, the parking supervisor was fired. But Cox made things worse for himself by calling in two deputy chiefs to vent about the leave—an action the report called "insubordination."

A contrite Cox explained in a letter to council that he "did not read the letter placing me on administrative leave until after I had already violated its conditions." But more may have been at work than inattention: according to the report, "the Chief believes that he effectively has no boss when it comes to policing [and] nobody can tell him how to run the Police Department."

"While the matter of addressing parking tickets ... may seem trivial, arbitrary enforcement of these policies undermines discipline," Lazarus wrote in a letter to council. He added that while "I do not consider Chief Cox to be intentionally subordinate [sic], nevertheless, his comments about 'not having a boss' as it relates to police operations are problemat-

A contrite Cox explained in a letter to council that he "did not read the letter placing me on administrative leave until after I had violated its conditions."

ic. While working within a smaller police agency with a direct reporting relationship with the City Administrator has been an adjustment, it does not excuse the belief that he can operate without control."

Lazarus made it clear that if the council hadn't fired him, he would have gone further and suspended the police chief. "Although I have the authority to issue a suspension," Lazarus wrote, "I am not taking that action given the extenuating circumstance that I will not be the City Administrator" when the suspension would have ended.

Police unions have questioned Cox's ability to continue to lead the department. But, Taylor notes, "the chief has community support"—and the support of council's new majority.

Vaccine Venture

Biotech entrepreneur Roger Newton is back in the game—and working on a vaccine for Covid-19.

In April's article "The Vindication of Roger Newton," we quoted a colleague as saying that Newton, whose credits include the blockbuster drug Lipitor, had retired to northern Michigan. After the article came out, Newton got in touch to report that he is bankrolling two start-ups: Esperovax and Espervita. Both take their names from the same Latin root for "to hope" as Esperion Therapeutics, the Newton-founded company that won FDA approval in February for two new cholesterol-lowering drugs, Nexletol and Nexlizet.

Like Esperion, the new companies are based in Ann Arbor. Southeast Michigan "has a tremendous amount of talent to create a very vibrant biotech and pharma industry," Newton says. Espervita is pursuing an innovative approach to treating liver cancer, targeting the same enzyme that Nexletol blocks to stop fat and cholesterol production in the liver. Esperovax is developing oral vaccines, including one against Covid-19.

That's a big challenge. Virtually all vaccines are delivered by needle, because acids in the digestive tract would break them down before they stimulate the desired immune response.

Newton's cofounders invented a way to overcome this hurdle. They first placed partial viral gene sequences inside regular brewer's yeast. Swallowed in pill form, the yeast secretes particles containing the genetic material, which is taken up by cells in the intestine. These cells then manufacture the viral proteins that stimulate the immune response.

Esperovax is still a small operation, however. Operating out of Newton's Michigan Life Science and Innovation Center in Plymouth, where Esperion got its start, it had just five employees as of mid-April. Covid-19 vaccine clinical trials aren't likely to start until next year.

Despite Newton's stellar track record, funding is a challenge. CEO David O'Hagan says that he is talking with potential private investors about seed money, but the coronavirus pandemic has dried up investment in startups.

Despite Newton's stellar track record, funding is a challenge. Esperovax CEO David O'Hagan says the coronavirus pandemic has dried up investment in startups.

So far, Newton has provided Esperovax's entire budget. "We are now out raising money to fund these young companies, but it's going to be a tough road," he says. "A lot of people, they're not investing. Venture capital is shutting down. They want to keep their [existing] portfolio companies going, so no new investment."

So for now, Newton's companies are focusing on government funding—especially for the Covid-19 vaccine.

Summoned Home

"Given the world's circumstances, I wouldn't have wanted to be anywhere but home," says Hannah Rubenstein.

At 2 a.m. on March 12, Rubenstein was awake in her London dorm room when she started to receive texts from friends asking if she was coming home. President Donald Trump had just announced a ban on noncitizens traveling to the United States from continental Europe. Rubenstein, a twenty-year-old Barnard student from Ann Arbor on an exchange semester at University College London, called her parents and told them, "I need to be on a plane right now." The next day, she managed to book a last-minute ticket, at four times the price of the return flight she'd already scheduled for June.

Rubenstein is one of many young adults from Ann Arbor who had to shift plans to return home in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic. Academic semesters were upended, college graduation ceremonies canceled, and post-graduation travel and work plans halted.

That same night, Maddy Schmitter was on an overnight bus trip from Spain to Portugal. She awoke in the middle of the night to one percent battery left on her phone, news of Trump's speech, and a text from her mother telling her to buy a ticket home as soon as possible. Her boyfriend was already on a flight from the U.S. to meet her in Lisbon. They returned together "on one of the last days before all the flights really started being canceled," she says.



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Alona Henig (right) with her dad Itzik, mother Amira, and brother Ben. She was only a month into a planned year of travel when she arrived in Vietnam on March 10 to find the hostel where she had planned to stay was closed—and the foreigners there were under quarantine.

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Inside Ann Arbor

For some, coming home was not the first choice. Alona Henig had planned to spend 2020 working and traveling in Asia and South America. There was already news about the virus when she left for Thailand in early February, but "I didn't want to miss out on this great opportunity that I had set aside for myself," she says.

From Thailand, she traveled to Cambodia and Laos, where the pandemic remained a minor concern. She started to worry only after she arrived in Vietnam on March 10 and had to complete a medical declaration form. "We basically had to testify to the Vietnamese government that we hadn't had any symptoms in the last fourteen days," she says. The hostel where she had planned to stay was closed, but Henig considered herself lucky: other foreigners were quarantined there.

Still hoping to salvage her trip, Henig bought a ticket to New Zealand. But during her layover in Australia, she learned that New Zealand was requiring all new arrivals to self-quarantine for fourteen days. When Australia did the same the next day, she realized her travel year abroad had ended. "Flights were being canceled," she says. "Countries were closing their borders ... I never was scared of getting sick—I was scared of getting stuck."

Eliza Upton's trip had started in October, traveling in Southeast Asia with Schmitter using a homestay and job platform called Workaway. They had lived on sustainable farms, worked in stand-up paddleboard shops, and slept in bamboo huts. But as the scale of the pandemic sank in, Upton realized she could be trapped far from home. "That was definitely a main motivator behind leaving when we did," she says.

Back home, the young adults are adjusting to a new normal under Governor Whitmer's "Stay Home, Stay Safe" order. Upton says the pandemic has forced everyone to hit the pause button. "If anything, it seems to be a strong reminder that we're not invincible," Upton says.

Grateful for her own safety, she worries about others. "I'm anxious about loved ones and their job security and mental health," she says, and everyone at risk from the virus, especially the elderly and people with pre-existing conditions. And she worries about a recession and the survival of local businesses. "There is just so much fear and uncertainty in the world, and it's hard to wrap my head around it all."

Henig's travel experiences have caused her to reflect on the ways countries around the world responded to the virus. "I think this entire pandemic is really bringing to light what different priorities different countries have," she says. "In the U.S., freedom is such an important value that we feel entitled to it, even when it's not safe."

Isaac Scobey-Thal, a senior at Yale University, had been looking forward to a spring break in Puerto Rico, end-of-the-year celebrations, and a "victory lap" to celebrate after four years of hard work. Instead, he's back at home in Ann Arbor. "I'm a grown adult and don't have a curfew or rules of the house, but the rules of the pandemic are applying to everyone," he says. "So in that sense it almost feels like I'm a child again. The pandemic is infantilizing all of us."

Scobey-Thal stresses that his disappointment pales in comparison to those whose lives and jobs are in jeopardy. "Now I understand a little bit what it was like during the influenza, or one of the great wars, to have a world event just stop the entire globe in its tracks."

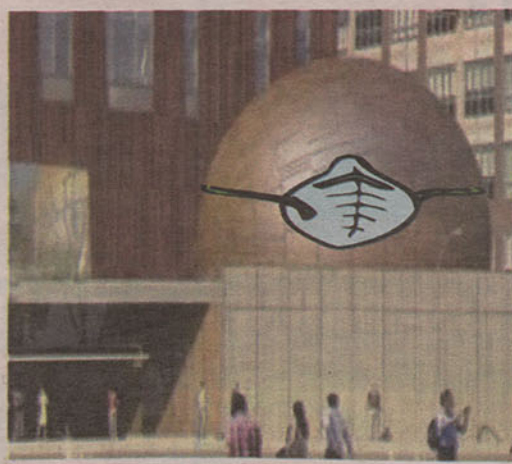
Upton watched this global halt play out in her hometown. When she took breaks from home quarantine to go for runs by herself, "It was such an odd and surreal feeling to run through an empty State Street at 5:30 p.m. on a Saturday night," she says. "Everything felt deserted, and it broke my heart to see all the empty restaurants and stores. I've never experienced anything like it. Ann Arbor feels quiet and lonely."

Though they have returned to a more desolate Ann Arbor, Scobey-Thal, Schmitter, Henig, Upton, and Rubenstein feel a strong sense of gratitude to be safe at home. "I'm lucky enough that if I want to go back to Europe after I graduate and do some of the traveling that I didn't get to do, I'm able to do that," says Rubenstein.

"There are more important things to me right now, and being home with my family is one of them."

Life in Ann Arbor

Tim Athan



question corner

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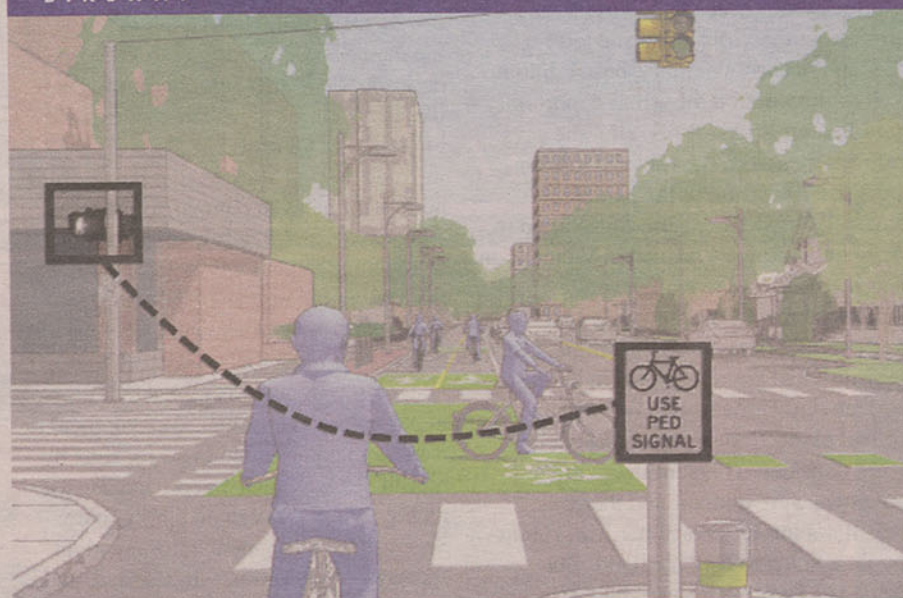
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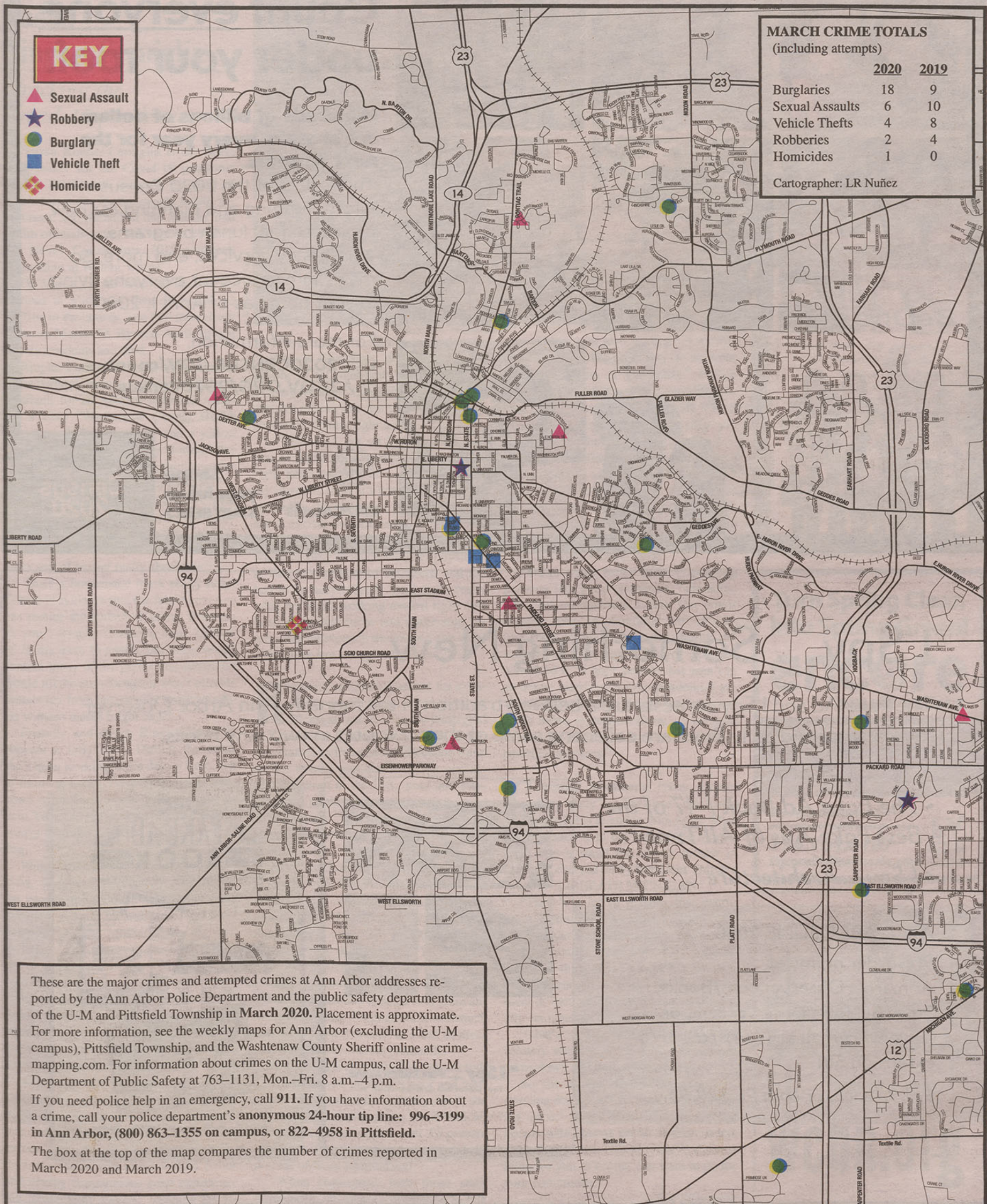
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By Jay Forstner as seen in the Ann Arbor Observer

Susan Ringler-Cerniglia

Tracking the Covid-19 pandemic

Susan Ringler-Cerniglia is the storm tracker for the Covid-19 pandemic in Washtenaw County. As head of communications for the county health department, she warned in late January that health officials were “actively monitoring the Novel Coronavirus 2019 outbreak originating in Wuhan, China.”

On March 11, she reported the first infections in Michigan, then on March 13 the first in the county. The first local death came on March 22. By mid-April, fifteen county residents had died.

Ringler-Cerniglia, forty-eight, arrives at the county’s human services building in Ypsilanti for an outdoor interview wearing a navy “Washtenaw County Health Department” T-shirt, jeans, and a yellow mask with a pattern of tiny flowers. She explains it was sewn by her thirteen-year-old daughter, the older of her two kids.

“The shortage of real protective gear for our health care workers and our front-line workers is real,” Ringler-Cerniglia explains. “So everyone that can use some other sort of barrier really should be.”

Does a homemade mask really help? “There is evidence that the fabric covering can reduce the spread of germs from me to you,” Ringler-Cerniglia says carefully. If she were to cough, the mask would contain many of the germs that otherwise would fill the air—though it won’t reliably protect her from any smaller particles others without masks might expel.

Friendly and direct, Ringler-Cerniglia appears a little tired. During the crisis she’s been working seven days a week, ten to fourteen hours a day. During the shutdown she’s been working from home in Scio Twp., where at least she can snatch breaks with the kids and walk her rescue dog.

With a master’s in public health from U-M, Ringler-Cerniglia has worked for the county for fourteen years. She pulls information from federal, state, and local sources. Medical providers are required to report all cases to the county. Every day, she updates the county website (washtenaw.org/3095/COVID-19).

Early on, when there were just a few locals diagnosed (mostly those who had returned from overseas), the department identified places they’d visited before being diagnosed. One had swum in the YMCA pool, which was immediately shut for cleaning. But as cases climbed dramatically, the department stopped that practice, frustrating people who wanted “dangerous” and “safe” areas identified. By then, that point had passed—Ann Arbor and nearby communities were experiencing “community spread,” meaning the vi-



rus was everywhere. Adding to the unease, “testing is incredibly difficult for most anyone to get right now. You still have to be symptomatic [to qualify]. We, as a state and as a nation, just don’t have widespread accessible testing right now.”

“That said, for an individual, me or you or someone experiencing symptoms right now, whether or not I’m tested, if my illness is mild, it’s not going to change medically the course of my treatment”—she’d isolate herself even from family members to avoid spreading the virus, while keeping in touch with her physician in case her symptoms worsened and she had to be hospitalized. “And that’s really what we’re all working toward right now is to slow that curve and make sure we have that emergency treatment,” she adds. “That’s the big struggle right now.”

Ringler-Cerniglia’s passion for community health began when the west Michigan native was an undergrad at Kalamazoo College. A Spanish major, she studied in Panama and Ecuador—and on her return, was struck by the realization that even in the U.S., poor and marginalized communities are shortchanged in health care. “You sometimes need to go away to understand your world better,” she says.

After graduation, she did community work with Spanish-speaking migrant workers in Texas and Michigan before returning to Michigan for her master’s. She started at the county in 2006, working in emergency preparedness. Three years later, she was contending with the H1N1 (“swine flu”) outbreak. Like Covid, it was a viral infection that crossed over from animals to humans. Fortunately, it was much less deadly, but it served as a sort of dress rehearsal for the current pandemic.

As Ringler-Cerniglia expected, Covid-19 has hit hardest in poor and marginalized communities. In early April, she released data showing that while African Americans made up just over 12 percent of county residents, they represented 48 percent of those hospitalized.

“When confronted with those stark differences, we have an obligation to talk

about them,” she says, adding it’s a difficult conversation. “In no way do we want to create stigma or generalize.” Before releasing the data the department consulted with its volunteer “Community Voices for Health Equity” team. Some members made videos about how the pandemic is affecting them that have since been shared on the county’s social media and website.

As businesses close and workers are laid off, one of the most immediate impacts is hunger. “Food security issues are constant in our community,” she says, “and definitely more so now.”

“We’re really lucky to have amazing partners like Food Gatherers,” she adds, and “school districts across the county have done an incredible job” of getting food normally provided during the school day into the hands of families who need it. “I hope people that aren’t in an active response [to the pandemic] are able to either help or donate food or money to those response efforts ... because the need is huge, and we can’t stop those essential services.”

Governor Whitmer’s “Stay Home, Stay Safe” order was originally scheduled to end in mid-April. After she extended it to the end of the month, there was a small but rowdy protest in Lansing, cheered on by President Trump’s tweet to “LIBERATE MICHIGAN.”

“There’s a lot of reasons that everyone’s feeling like it’s time to open back up,” Ringler-Cerniglia acknowledges. But even with strict social distancing in place, twenty to thirty new Covid-19 cases were being diagnosed every day. With no treatment or vaccine, “we have to be really, really cautious about opening up ...

“That’s hard to hear. But nobody, absolutely nobody, wants to see us start to come down and then shoot back up.”

So the health department won’t be standing down anytime soon. “It’s a grinding pace,” Ringler-Cerniglia says. “But people who choose public health careers don’t do it because it’s necessarily the best thing for you. It’s what you want to do for your community.”

—Eve Silberman

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Puzzles in the Time of Coronavirus

Without the box, puzzles are about process.

Forget toilet paper shortages. One of the earliest items to sell out during this siege was jigsaw puzzles. Finally, I am ahead of the trend! I didn't need to worry about procuring any, because I try to keep a few 500-to-1,000-piece puzzles on deck.

It's a habit I picked up from my kids. At first they scoffed, knowing that their mom has trouble sticking to tasks and completing them—not good characteristics for this particular challenge. But I was drawn in and eventually hooked.

When visitors used to come by, in those pre-coronavirus days, they would want to help but were perplexed when there was no box in sight. The kids came up with that rule: no picture allowed. But how do you put together a puzzle without the aid of the picture on the box?

It is most definitely a game changer. I estimate that it takes at least ten to twenty times as long to piece together a puzzle without seeing the picture. But it's like the difference between painting by number or freehand. The goal is still to complete the puzzle, but it is the process that counts.

I begin with a general idea of what the picture is from a glance at the box—a car junkyard, a collection of candy wrappers, one of those ridiculous imagined scenes of wholesome American countryside, a Vincent van Gogh painting. But then the box is put away, and it's just me and the pieces.

There are a few rules. First of all, the puzzle can't be too easy or too hard. I would never try to follow in my daughter's footsteps and attempt a 1,000-piece puzzle of scattered Reese's Pieces, nor my son's completion of a Marc Chagall painting, and certainly not another daughter's Jackson Pollock. I need a lot of contrast in the puzzle, which is why that

really mean gift of the Beatles' White Album cover puzzle is still stuck in a closet somewhere.

The second rule is more motivation than rule: all puzzles are solvable, eventually. Speed doesn't matter.

Rule number three: just dive in. I don't like puzzles that don't have a defined border (see rule one). So like most people, I start with the straight-edged pieces. After that, all bets are off; whatever colors call to me are where I start. I am not so good at sorting in an organized manner. Besides, when you can't see the picture, you don't know which shades of blue go together or just reoccur. If you want to truly learn a piece of art, try doing a puzzle of it and you will see how the artist composed the painting.

Rule number four: walk away from the table anytime. Fitting pieces together comes in bursts. You may get five or ten pieces joined and then be absolutely stuck. That's okay. Come back, and it will jump out at you.

Rule number five: don't be certain that all the pieces are there.

I have a collection of pieces from old jigsaw puzzles. Most were found between sofa cushions or under a carpet or in a shoe. Even if you buy a brand-new puzzle, things happen.



COURTESY NEHAMA GLOGOWER

I would never try to follow in my daughter's footsteps and attempt a 1000-piece puzzle of scattered Reese's Pieces, nor my son's completion of a Marc Chagall painting, and certainly not another daughter's Jackson Pollock. I need a lot of contrast in the puzzle, which is why that really mean gift of the Beatles' White Album cover puzzle is still stuck in a closet somewhere.

Missing pieces are more likely if, like me, you buy your puzzles at yard sales or resale shops. I would regularly prowl through the Salvation Army, the PTO Thrift Shop, and the ReUse Center for puzzles. For fifty cents to \$2 you can get

a cool puzzle that would cost \$10-\$12 retail. Of course, you run the risk that the puzzle is incomplete.

And what if it isn't? My son invented a custom of saving the last piece for me. I might come down in the morning and find that 999 pieces are all snuggled together, with the final piece waiting for mom. It was very touching.

But if even those last few pieces are not to be found, it doesn't matter. That's life. Are you going to focus on the 998 pieces you did manage to complete or mourn those missing two? Especially as we are reevaluating our priorities these days, 998 pieces is quite an accomplishment.

Final rule: break it apart. When the puzzle is as done as it's going to be, I love passing my hands over the smoothness of the fitted pieces. It sits for a day, so I can bask in the glory, but then it must be broken up. It was a satisfying task, but when all is said and done, it is just a bunch of cardboard. I put the pieces back in the box and donate it so someone else can enjoy it.

"I don't see the attraction," my husband once commented. It's true that it is ephemeral. Puzzle time is thinking time for me, where I can work on a problem at hand while mulling over more existential questions in the back of my mind.

Besides, there is joy in fitting pieces together. "Think about when you played basketball," I answered my husband, "You know that feeling when you hit a swish, and the ball goes into the basket perfectly? That's what it's like when I connect."

—Nehama Stampfer Glogower



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With thousands of resourceful Ann Arborites out of work or working from home, many are looking for ways to transform their worry into purpose, their idleness into action. And business owners, despite financial strain, find that they have skills and resources they are able to contribute. Here are a few examples of the ways Ann Arborites are helping each other get through Covid-19.

A skin care specialist heads to the frontlines.

With her skin-care business CosMedic LaserMD closed due to Governor Whitmer's stay-at-home order, Deepa Macha wanted to use her time to help. The physician knew that protective respirators for health care workers were in short supply—and that she had some of the components needed to make them in her office. Macha learned how to assemble a reusable elastomeric face respirator by watching a YouTube video, and soon she and her three children, one in high school, two in college, were assembling and distributing hundreds to hospitals in Detroit, New York, and California.

Macha knew there was more she could do. "I was trained in emergency medicine in the New York City hospital system, and I have the skills to do respirator management and emergency pulmonary care." She took a part-time position as an emergency room doctor at Rome Hospital near Syracuse, New York, an area which has been hard hit by Covid-19.

It's a difficult situation. "They are lacking even basic equipment to protect doctors," Macha says. "We are asked to reuse our contaminated masks. I was given a mask that didn't even fit, so I used my own respirator instead."

After a long shift at the hospital, Macha takes another hour to decontaminate her clothes and herself. She even bleaches the quarters she uses to wash her clothing each night. But this level of precaution is uncommon among the hospital staff, she says, and she believes the virus is spreading more quickly because of it.

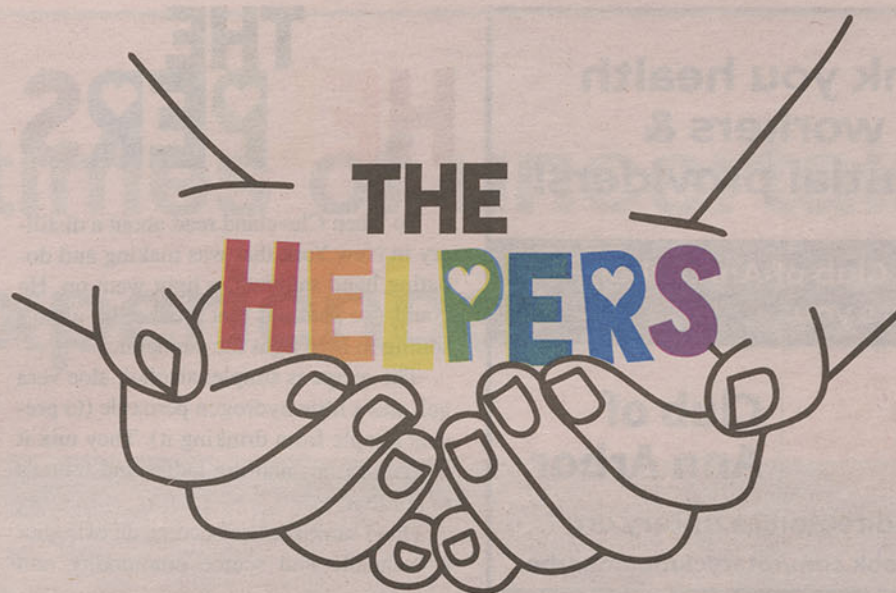
Back in Ann Arbor, her children continue to assemble and distribute respirators. Macha is anxious to be reunited with them and reopen CosMedic LaserMD. In the meantime, she will continue to work on the frontlines.

A PPE back channel to China

One of the revelations of the pandemic is how much of the personal protective equipment used in the U.S. is made in China—and with China hit first by the disease, it's been hard to get enough fast enough. But an informal channel opened up by the U-M Association of Chinese Professors is bringing PPE to Michigan straight from China. By mid April, the volunteers had purchased and delivered more than 100,000 face masks—including more than 17,000 with the desperately needed N95 specification.

Lu Wang, an associate professor of biostatistics at the School of Public Health, is a driving force behind the effort.

"On March 11 the Chinese professors at U-M started to think about what



They're stepping up with everything from free meals to homemade face shields.

by Trilby MacDonald



(Above) Members of the U-M Association of Chinese Professors with just a fraction of the personal protective equipment they've donated to Michigan Medicine. (Below) Kevin Lesser and Josh Mullin of Operation Face Shield—Ann Arbor. Mullin is sterilizing shield frames that he made with his 3D printer.



we can do to help the frontline workers," she explains. "Our concern was ordering the most needed items from China immediately, before everything was bought out, in order to bridge the gap until sufficient American-made supplies became available.

"So many people responded, and within twenty-four hours we had raised \$70,000.

Later on more people joined us, and we met our goal of raising \$120,000 from our professors inside of U-M."

Students, staff, and alumni, as well as members of the Chinese community in Ann Arbor, are ordering equipment in China for University Hospital's Covid-19 caregivers and other area hospitals and senior centers in need.

"When we tell people this idea, many support it," Wang says. To date, more than 100 ACP members and their friends, collaborators, students, postdocs, and family members in China have participated in fundraising, donations, and volunteer work.

"I see all of us as little ants who together have huge power," says Wang. "A lot of little ants can move a whole house!"

Fighting infection with 3-D printers

"Operation Face Shield of Ann Arbor" includes students, teachers, and parents; medical professionals; engineers; academics; and others from across Southeast Michigan—all making face shields on home 3-D printers to protect frontline workers as they treat Covid-19 patients. Most of the more than 1,000 members of the Facebook group are involved in some way in the production, assembly, and distribution of thousands of the shields to area hospitals, nursing homes, and home health care workers. The group uses the Ann Arbor Distilling Company's parking lot as its assembly, disinfection, and distribution point. After building and distributing more than 12,000 shields in less than four weeks, they're starting to get orders from outside Michigan.

Member Hans Masing is already flying the face shields to hospitals and nursing homes in other parts of Michigan. He can fit up to 1,000 in his 1968 Mooney M20F aircraft.

Becky Cherney, a nurse in a Covid-19 unit of University Hospital, is the informal operations manager of Operation Face Shield, dedicating most of her nonworking hours to the group. "There is a lot of negativity now, and this is a bright thing," she says. "I love our community, but my respect for it has grown so much as a result of Operation Face Shield."

Satellite operations using the same model have begun to spring up in other parts of the state, allowing the Ann Arbor group to focus on supplying other essential workers.

"The hospitals are doing okay in our area," Cherney says. "We are starting to reach out proactively to places we think might need them. We have been in contact with homeless shelters, grocery stores, gas stations."

She appreciates that U-M, more stable and better resourced than many other hospitals, has been able to continue performing life-saving surgeries even during the pandemic.

"I had a patient get a lung transplant yesterday," she says. "I am proud of Michigan Medicine."

From vodka to hand sanitizer

In just five years, the Ann Arbor Distilling Company has become a beloved anchor of the Water Hill neighborhood. But when Michigan shut down, demand for its artisanal spirits slowed to a trickle. "At least half of our customer base was restaurants and bars," explains owner Rob Cleveland. "Liquor stores are selling more, but if you are no longer getting a paycheck, you're not going to drop forty dollars on a bottle of alcohol."



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THE HELPERS

So when Cleveland read about a distillery in New York that was making and donating hand sanitizer, a light went on. He could use some of that alcohol he wasn't selling to help fight the pandemic.

The recipe is simple: alcohol, aloe vera gel, and a little hydrogen peroxide (to prevent people from drinking it). They mix it in giant drums and use ladles and funnels to bottle it.

Hand sanitizer has become an extremely valuable and scarce commodity and

"These volunteers are the light during a dark situation," says Robyn. "They've found a new purpose in the midst of the chaos."

A restaurateur's illogical generosity

"Since this thing happened I have done everything against logic," says Ahmad Hodroj, owner of Palm Palace on Washtenaw Ave. While other restaurants closed or laid off staff when sit-down dining was banned, Hodroj began giving food away—and gave his workers a raise and a bonus.

"I realized that many kids need food," he says. "Family budgets are out of whack. We started at \$2,000 per day [in donations], and that is where we are now. We are open 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. every day, and



TRILBY MACDONALD

The kitchen crew at Palm Palace: Alaa Al Dhayef, Bassel Youniss, Alketa Bodurri, and Fawzi Tazairt. Not shown: owner Ahmad Hodroj, who has been giving away \$2,000 worth of food a day.

they've sold a few bulk orders. But Cleveland doesn't see it as a business. "I know that some distilleries have started branding, labeling, and selling hand sanitizer, but in the spirit of trying to do things for the community we are mostly giving it away," he says.

Many gallons have gone to institutions like University Hospital, Mott Children's Hospital, and SafeHouse Center. And they've given out more than 1,250 four-ounce containers to people who've come to the distillery—keeping Water Hill a little safer.

Angels Wear Gowns

In early March, Chelsea couple Jeff and Robyn Staebler decided to join in the homegrown PPE manufacture movement by making isolation gowns. They pulled an old hospital gown out of their children's Halloween costume box and created a template. After a couple of drafts, they settled on four-millimeter plastic as their material, and production began. The first batch went to St. Joseph Mercy—Chelsea.

Robyn put out a call for volunteers on Facebook and received a flood of responses. Their group soon connected with Stacey Grant of Protect Our Frontline Heroes Metro Detroit, and together they became "Angels Wear Gowns." Using plastic film and tape donated by Lowe's and Chelsea Lumber Company, the group of at least seventy members has produced more than 1,000 gowns. The Chelsea Depot Association has provided its building to aggregate the gowns for distribution to more than twenty hospitals and retirement homes.

people can get free food at any time."

He's paying his staff more, too, because "those guys are risking their lives," he says. "We don't know who is going to walk through those doors. We want to motivate those folks and show them they are appreciated."

Hodroj is betting that the economy is going to recover and his business will survive his bold move to ignore good financial sense and open his arms to the community. And as costly as it is financially, he says the generosity is paying off in other ways. "It is bringing such a positive business ambience and energy flow."

People already are returning to Palm Palace when they have money to spend. "The day everyone received their stimulus checks, the restaurant was inundated with orders," he says. Many people are also making donations. "We get people walking in, buying gift cards, and shredding them."

Hodroj is reaching beyond the Ann Arbor community to help out his native Detroit. "This week marks the fourth week that we provided meals to 400 people at the Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries." Palm Palace employees also delivered 120 meals to emergency doctors and nurses at St. Joe's Hospital.

Palm Palace opened in 2008 at the onset of the Great Recession. Hodroj is confident his business can also weather Covid-19, but the stress is taking its toll.

"Every day when I go to work, it feels like I am going to the battlefield," he says.

But "no one is thinking profits right now," he says. "Karma is great. Sometimes not planning is a good plan." ■

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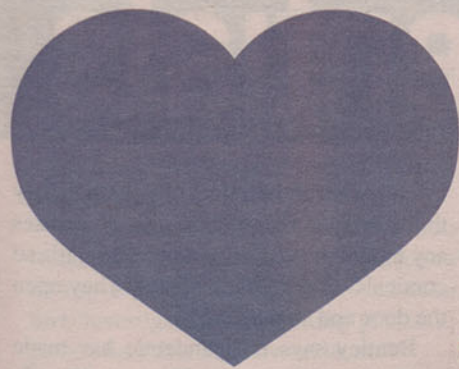
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Ann Arborites working through the pandemic.

Essentials

The Covid-19 pandemic divided Ann Arbor between those with too little to do, and those with too much. While the economic shutdown triggered a record surge in unemployment, people in "essential occupations" are busier than ever.

They're healing the sick and studying the infection—but also feeding the hungry, fixing plugged sinks, and learning lessons that only the dead can teach.

Treating patients and tracking the virus

A specialist in infectious diseases at Michigan Medicine, Adam Lauring normally spends about four weeks a year seeing inpatients and the rest doing research. But in mid-April, he'd spent three of the previous five weeks with patients, almost all of them severely ill with Covid-19. "It's a time when I should be involved," he says. "I try to recharge when I'm not on, and to spend time with my family the best I can. But yeah, it's been busy. And it's stressful. And I probably don't sleep as much as I used to."

With as many as 150 Covid patients at a time in intensive care, Lauring is quick to point out that others are working even harder and at greater risk. The staff members who intubate patients to keep them alive on ventilators, the respiratory therapists who operate the machines, and the nurses all are "more on the front line," he says.

Lauring's life changed on March 9, when the hospital's head epidemiologist, who was preparing for the outbreak, asked him to cover her rounds. The U-M's first Covid-19 patient, one of the first in Michigan, had just arrived. Lauring spent the next two weeks seeing virtually every Covid patient in the U-M's hospitals.

"I'm used to seeing people who are very sick," Lauring says—but not "so many people very sick with the same thing." And Covid patients "can all of a sudden get much worse very quickly, in the course of hours."

A ban on visitors adds to the stress for caregivers and patients alike. "The interaction with family members is just not there," Lauring says, "and I think that can be tough. It's very hard for patients. It's very hard [for caregivers] to see."

When he's not seeing patients, Lauring runs a six-person lab, which studies how viruses evolve and spread. They'd been working on influenza, but after the outbreak hit, they abruptly shifted to the coronavirus. They're preserving virus samples from infected patients (inpatient, outpatient, and homebound) and preparing to

**Lauring's lab studies how
viruses evolve and spread.
Its focus quickly shifted
from the flu to the
coronavirus.**



sequence their RNA genomes.

Because the virus is constantly mutating, these genomes differ between patients and even within the same patient. The gene sequence "is almost like a signature, a fingerprint," Lauring says. It's entirely feasible, using such viral fingerprints, to pinpoint the person who infected a patient and to rule out others who didn't.

He says the data could help answer some key questions: "Does everyone transmit the same, or are there some people who transmit the virus more than others?"

Who's doing most of the transmission—is it kids, is it adults, is it people with certain conditions? Is it happening more from people who have symptoms, or people who don't?"

"We're still pretty early in understanding the evolution of this virus," he cautions. But he's confident that it will, in time, be contained: "There's no reason to think that we're not going to be able to get a vaccine."

—Ken Garber

Delivering food to those in need

"I feel it's very important to be of service, to give back to my community especially during this time," says Franky Bennett, fifty-two. "Hunger is very real now, and it affects everyone, one way or another."

Five days a week, Bennett drives a Food Gatherers' truck to groceries and big-box stores, where he collects produce, baked goods, canned foods, health care items, and prepared foods. He delivers his loads to Food Gatherers' northside warehouse, then goes out again to supply the food pantries that are struggling to sustain the newly jobless and their families.

A year ago, Bennett left a "nightmare" of a job "putting Xerox copiers in all of the [U-M] medical and campus buildings." Looking for more meaningful work, he found it as one of one of Food Gatherers' forty employees.

The staff normally works with an army of 5,000 volunteers, but during the pandemic, his job has evolved dramatically. To start with, the governor's stay-at-home order has replaced some volunteers with National Guardsmen and -women.

When U-M closed, Bennett worked overtime as sororities, fraternities, and cafeterias hurried to empty their pantries.

Franky Bennett (below) found meaningful work at Food Gatherers. For two weeks, Adam Lauring (lower left) saw virtually every Covid-19 patient at the U-M hospitals.

When Governor Whitmer ordered restaurants to close their dining rooms, Bennett collected unused food so it wouldn't go to waste. "Common Grill alone gave us 500 pounds of fresh food. Casey's also emptied a lot of stock. And many more did the same."



When the governor's stay-at-home orders went into effect, Food Gatherers employees were exempted as essential workers, and they are: "The need is growing every day," Bennett says.

To reduce his own risk of infection, he routinely wears a mask and gloves. Riding shotgun in his truck are two huge containers of hand sanitizer. "Still, my job's a little stressful," he says. "Not everyone abides by the social distancing guidelines, but we try to."

"We no longer ask food pantries to sign for orders. I sign for them and slip the paperwork onto a table without any contact. I'm doing the best I can with the precautions, but it's challenging."

With so many restaurants closed or operating at reduced levels, grocery and big-box stores are Food Gatherers' primary food sources. Busch's, he says, "is very involved in fighting hunger; everyone there is on board. Trader Joe's is extremely generous—they donate a lot of really good food, a lot of produce. Kroger, too. The People's Food Co-op and Whole Foods give us healthy prepared foods—hummus, cheeses, prepared foods. We also pick up big loads from Costco and Sam's Club.

"They used to give us packages of meat, but no longer—the demand is too



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Essentials

great; they can't keep them on their own shelves. For a while, there was no bread to donate, but supplies are better now."

Bennett delivers to Catholic Social Services, church food pantries, the Salvation Army, the Bryant and Hikone community centers, Faith in Action, Delonis Center, Aid in Milan, and other sites. Though he gets there well before they open, lately "I'm seeing people lined up outside the centers long before they open their doors."

"Some days I collect sandwiches from Whole Foods in the early afternoon, and by 3 o'clock I'm giving those sandwiches to people who otherwise wouldn't have a meal."

"Unlike many people, I get to see the good I'm doing firsthand. Every day I know I'm helping someone, someone who won't have to go to bed hungry that night."

"It's a calling now. I'm helping with a desperate need. There's great satisfaction in doing that. You look beyond yourself to the greater good."

—Cynthia Furlong Reynolds

Keeping the lights on

James Bentley III is lead emergency on-call tech for McKinley Properties. His team of four covers the night shift at the Aspen Chase, Villas, Roundtree, Golf-side Lake, and Glencoe Hills apartment complexes. There are 720 units in Glencoe Hills alone.

Bentley has a broad smile and quick, springy step. He has been with McKinley since 2015 and knows many tenants by name. But to reduce the risk of spreading Covid-19, during Governor Whitmer's "Stay Home, Stay Safe" order, his team is responding only to emergencies such as major plumbing issues, lack of heat, or broken windows.

"You are thinking about so much when you go into someone's home," he says. "The first thing I ask is if anyone is quarantined."

What concerns him more are residents who don't know they're infected. Bentley has lost five close personal friends to Covid-19 in his hometown of Detroit, and several more people in his church congregation.

"My precautions are masks, gloves, and booties, and I always wipe down the areas where I work," he says. "In a discreet way, I ask residents to observe social distancing. I don't want to infect anyone and

I don't want to be infected I honestly think they don't want us in their houses any more than us having to go there. It's so comical—they're like, 'Okay!' They open the door and step away."

Bentley says the pandemic has made residents more self-sufficient. "People are not allowing crazy things to happen, like bathtubs overflowing and leaking into the apartments below them," he says

"Pre-shutdown, people would call maintenance for almost anything. Now, people are trying to rectify problems themselves because they don't want to bring anyone into their home."

He is grateful that residents have been limiting their calls to true emergencies. "I have been surprised by how nice people are," he says. "We try to get

in, repair the problem, and get out as soon as possible. We are more organized now and always bring the exact tools we need."

When residents do start conversations, he tries to disengage gracefully, for his sake as well as theirs. But he understands the shutdown is hard for "people who are lonely, particularly the older residents—you can tell that it is more bothersome to them having to be in the home. It's subjective, because even though you might like to be home, your homebody control is taken from you."

Staying home by choice, he points out, is one thing. "Being told you can't go out is another story."

—Trilby MacDonald



The medical detective

Allecia Wilson became director of U-M's Autopsy and Forensic Services and chief medical examiner for Washtenaw County on January 1—and "walked right into a pandemic."

Her workday starts at 6:30 or 7 a.m. "looking at a list of who passed away the day and night before." On a typical day, she and another forensic pathologist will identify three or four to autopsy. "An autopsy is just a medical procedure that helps us understand the cause of death," she says.

Her docket comes from Washtenaw and Livingston counties. Michigan Medicine also contracts with Wayne County to provide medical examiner services, and five more forensic pathologists there have their own docket.

Despite the pandemic, "in terms of our actual numbers, I think right now they're about the same," Wilson says. While she

hasn't studied the numbers, with fewer cars on the road, they're seeing fewer people who died in motor vehicle accidents.

While some might find her work gruesome, "I love medicine," says Wilson. "My passion has always been medicine, but I also loved law enforcement. I thought about being a detective, a homicide detective, growing up.

"In medical school I learned about forensic pathology and it just clicked for me ... I love the study of disease. And I also love investigating and putting pieces together. So I'm a detective at heart."

During the pandemic, Wilson and her colleagues are playing a lead role in understanding how and why Covid-19 kills. "People are dying from respiratory distress, so a lot of patients are developing pneumonia," she explains. Though seniors and people with pre-existing medical conditions are at greatest risk, they've performed autopsies on people in their thirties. An autopsy may also be called for, Wilson says, when "someone was expected to recover or on their way to recover and died suddenly." Then, both the treating physicians and the family may want answers.

"One of the things that was brought to our attention very early on was that some of these patients were developing clots or thrombi in the [blood] vessels," Wilson says. Autopsies confirmed that they were "developing these microclots in the vessels in their lungs." That knowledge, in turn, may lead clinicians to provide "anti-coagulation, or some type of blood thinners" if they think the patients are experiencing these clots.

"We're working hand in hand with the treating doctors," she says, "to really use the autopsy to help us understand what's going on in the living."

She says she "doesn't worry any more than usual" about being exposed to infection during autopsies. "In terms of what we know right now, with postmortem transmissions, the risk is very low. But we do have increased precautions."

They perform Covid-19 autopsies in a negative pressure room so virus-laden air can't escape, and wear full personal protection equipment. They're also not examining Covid patients' brains, because the saw used to open the skull can generate a virus-laden aerosol ("I don't know how you're going to write that nicely").

"My role has always been as a public health official, so my purpose is really to do things that keep the citizens of our county safe," Wilson says. "Personally, I go through the same thing that everyone else goes through in terms of the disinfecting, the isolation. I do have close family members that I live with, so it's been some great bonding time with loved ones. But I think I'm pretty much experiencing the same things that others are in the community."

She thinks "the recommendations that have been set forth in terms of wearing those masks is always a good idea," even if it only keeps people from touching their own noses and mouths. She thinks wearing masks also "gives people some sense of security, and that's really important, I think, as we go through this. It's a really challenging time for all of us.

"I'm all for people doing things that give people the comfort and safety they need to live their lives and go grocery shopping and just be able to do the everyday things we need to do to make it through this.

"Mass disaster training is part of what we do," she says. "We've read about it, we've studied case models and things of the past, but to actually go through it yourself, to actually activate the mass disaster plan or to employ the methods that some of us have had to do in order to deal with the deaths as we go through this, I think it's a sobering experience. I think it's one of the things that many people don't have the opportunity to do in their career — and it really grounds you into remembering why you went into this profession.

"I really look at it as though I'm the person's last doctor. I'm the one that gets to answer a lot of questions for their families, for their doctors, for our community." She also has some heartfelt advice about how not to be her next "patient."

"I would really encourage the community, that if you suspect someone is ill—if they have any of the Covid-like symptoms that have been reported—that they seek medical care," she says.

"There is a lot we can do at the autopsy to help us understand, but ... as much as we can do that, I would really encourage [everyone] to seek medical attention—for the living."

—Jan Schlain



"I really look at it as though I'm the person's last doctor. I'm the one that gets to answer a lot of questions for their families, for their doctors, for our community."

(Opposite) "I don't want to infect anyone and I don't want to be infected," says emergency maintenance tech James Bentley III. He's lost five close personal friends to Covid-19 in his hometown of Detroit, and several more in his church congregation. (Above) Allecia Wilson became director of the U-M's Autopsy and Forensic Services and chief medical examiner for Washtenaw County on January 1—and "walked right into a pandemic."

PHOTO COURTESY OF WILSON

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BEST KICKS IN ANN ARBOR

Self(Un)employed

by Cynthia Furlong Reynolds

"I don't know how I'll manage to keep this yard up," an elderly neighbor said mournfully on the day governor Gretchen Whitmer issued a stay-at-home order for all but "essential" workers. "I've had the same woman doing my gardening for ten years, and she can't come now. She called me, crying. She's divorced, raising three children on her own. So we sent a check, and my husband called several of her other clients, who did the same. But I don't know how she's going to make ends meet."

The \$2.2 trillion economic stimulus package awards \$1,200 checks to Americans making less than \$75,000 (and \$500 apiece for their children). In a groundbreaking move, for the first time, self-employed workers will receive unemployment benefits.

But while this help is in the pipeline, people still have families to feed, mortgage or rent payments, utility bills, and mounting credit card debt. In addition, self-employed workers are responsible for their own health insurance, if they're not fortunate enough to have a spouse whose company provides coverage.

The economic crisis hits self-employed people particularly hard. At the end of February, Washtenaw County had only 2.2 percent unemployment. By the end of March, with all restaurants and nonessential businesses closed or operating with minimal staffs, joblessness soared to horrifying levels, jamming state phones and online resources. Filing for unemployment became a nightmare.

Early in March, Brenda Steiner closed her Unique Hair Studio on Jackson Rd. because her fourteen hair stylists exceeded the ten-person limit for gatherings then mandated by the governor. She could have shifted schedules, but she de-

People who work for themselves were early casualties.

cided to close out of concern for her customers, some of whom are elderly, others the mothers of young children, and still others with health conditions that heighten their risk from the virus.

"Frankly, I am very worried about the financial implications," she said at the time. "When hair stylists don't work, they don't get paid."

As soon as the stimulus package was approved, Steiner, along with her hair stylists, applied for unemployment. Several of the stylists also applied for emergency loans, although Steiner did not. "I'm very conservative financially and I worry about how I would pay off a loan. That may have to change soon—but I hope not."

Steiner spoke to her landlord about rent deferral or forgiveness, but he agreed only to allow her to mail her rent check "a little late." "I understand; he's a businessman who has to make a living, too," she says, sighing.

"I'm luckier than many people, but my husband and I are living very sparsely, looking at every dime we spend," she says. "I have some cash reserves, but I'm not sure how long they'll last."

Physical therapist Francine Quail runs a clinic out of her home. "This situation has really strapped us financially," she says in a phone interview. "I'm sitting at my desk trying to decide if I qualify for unemployment ... A physical therapist can't maintain a six-foot distance from her clients."

She's grateful that her husband, Mike, a math professor at Washtenaw Community College, is still working—online.

"We're not going to starve. But we are cutting back on our lifestyle pretty dramatically. Clearly, we'll take no vacations this year."

The situation is brighter for Julie Evanchek, a one-woman consulting company. She works remotely out of her

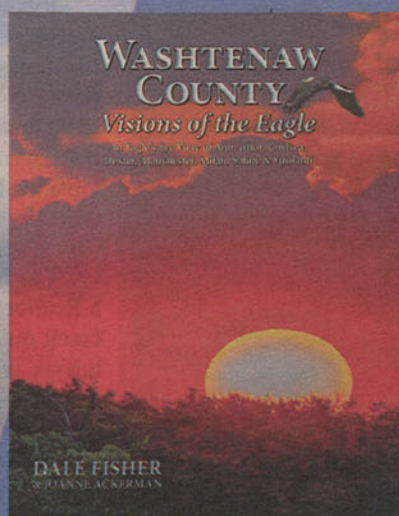


Clockwise from above: Realtor Cheryl Latshaw, photographer Jen Geer shooting a "porchtrait," and Brenda Steiner at her closed salon.

photos by J. Adrian Wylie



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Self(Un)employed

"We're taking this one day at a time, trying to come up with a schedule that works for all of us," she says. "My clients have been great, offering me more time for projects, knowing I have the kids at home now with me. Financially we're okay right now, but we live month to month, paycheck to paycheck, and if we exhaust our bank account, we'll start to struggle."

In mid-March, she canceled all appointments. She checks in with her patients regularly by phone, encouraging them to practice home exercises she emails to them. "I'm doing the best I can long-distance, but it's definitely not the same as when I can work directly with them."

"Many of my clients are expressing the concerns we all have: financial concerns, fears of what the future holds, practical issues—how to safely grocery shop or live in a divided household when a couple has one or both working outside the home and the potential for contamination."

Grogan lives in Lyndon Township, in a cottage on a lake in the woods. "I miss seeing people, too, but I get out, exercise, read the books I've stockpiled, and cook more than I used to. As a professional, my biggest concern is the increase in domestic violence I'm hearing about."

The governors of Ohio and Minnesota have categorized real estate as an "essential" occupation. Not so in Michigan. "Right now, everyone's health and safety

Until then, she and her husband are trying to help support local businesses and a friend who lost his job: they've hired him to supervise maintenance at their rental property.

"But I'm optimistic," he adds. "This will pass. At one point or other, cars will need servicing. I'm seventy and I've seen other pandemics come and go. The swine flu was tough for a while. I'm just hoping this virus will blow over before our funds disappear."

Her coworkers at both facilities are "very scared," she adds. "Some are even discussing whether or not to apply for work at grocery stores to make ends meet."

Jen Geer, a photographer who specializes in graduations, weddings, bar/bat mitzvahs, and family portraits has created a new market—pro bono.

"I believe in documenting the important moments in our lives, and for many of us, this Covid situation is a life-changing event," she points out. So she began chronicling the changing lives of her Burns Park neighbors. She calls them and asks them to walk onto their front porches. Then she stands on the sidewalk and takes their "porchtrait."

One picture features a woman with her cooking supplies; her harried-looking husband dressed up for a video conference, with a computer in his lap and a phone in his hand; their teenage daughter talking on the phone while still dressed in her pajamas at three o'clock in the afternoon; and a boy doing math homework on his iPad.

Another family dressed up for a party and decorated their porch as they celebrated their daughter's birthday with a giant card drawn in chalk on their driveway. "People walking past signed their name," Geer says. "The little girl loved it."

"I can't stand being bored, and I love finding new ways to doc-

"One day we're working hard and making money, the next day no one is working and no one is making any money."

ument friends' lives," she adds. "Of course I'm struggling financially. I'm a divorced mother of three kids. ... If budgets are strained, people don't think of photographs as essential items. But I'm hoping that senior pictures and weddings will just be postponed, not canceled. And for now, we can't let our circumstances stop us from trying to have fun."

In September 2018, Dave Whiting opened Office Evolution on E. Eisenhower, offering private and shared offices, virtual services, administrative services, and conference rooms for self-employed professionals and small businesses. A salesman in the automotive industry, he worked remotely and knew the value of such "coworking" spaces. To his surprise, when the governor shut down many small businesses in Michigan, his was deemed essential because it involves mail distribution.

"The majority of our tenants are in the legal, health care, or financial fields—all of which are essential businesses in this climate," he explains. "Some continue coming here to work, but we no longer have an open-door policy. They use their own fobs to get in and out twenty-four hours a day and they maintain social distance. The public is no longer allowed in."

"Several of our clients are start-up companies that must conserve their cash. One young lady is a graphic artist; her business is dead. Another sells hotel rooms to travel agencies—obviously the floor has fallen out of that business. They called and

said, 'I need to take a month off.' We totally understand. If this crisis lasts two or three months, we'll be fine. If it stretches out to five or six months, the conversation will have to change."

"This is a very difficult, very scary time," says Alicia Shattock, owner of Contempo Salon Studios on S. State. "For the people who work here, it's lights-out for their businesses. They have no stream of income."

Shattock has been in business since 2002. Until eight months ago, she was a salon owner who rented booths to stylists and manicurists. The shutdown caught her in the midst of expanding the facility from 3,000 to 7,600 square feet to make room for a wider range of independent contractors in the beauty industry.

Unfortunately, only 75 percent of the work was completed when the shutdown order took effect.

"One day we're working hard and making money, the next day no one is

working and no one is making any money," she says. "We're all independent contractors, so everyone is on their own financially ... At any rate, no one can afford to pay me rent. My landlord offered to let me defer my rent, so I could tell my tenants not to worry about their payments."

She doesn't plan to ask them for back rent when the crisis ends. "We're a family-owned business and we treat our tenants as family. My finances have been drained by the construction, let alone the economy. But we'll get through this."

Other self-employed area residents are being offered assistance from longtime customers or concerned friends. One neighbor continues to pay her housekeeper, despite not having seen her for weeks. Another sends checks to her gardener. Many are finding creative ways to help out-of-work friends and acquaintances.

Gabrielle Ayala is halfway through chemotherapy treatments for breast cancer. She called her hairdresser and asked her for help. "She goes grocery shopping for me and leaves the groceries on the porch. She's also running errands for me. In fact, she finished my Christmas shopping in March."

Ayala connected her with older friends who also need help. "She is working so hard to make ends meet—she has just been hired to stock grocery store shelves at night," Ayala says. "In a scary time, there are people who are working toward a win-win situation for us all."

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(L.) Stephanie Willette
(R.) Dale Lesser



THE FARMERS



With restaurants and farmers markets closed,
Covid-19 plants fears—and financial worries.

BY CYNTHIA FURLONG REYNOLDS

For many local farmers, the first crisis of the Covid-19 pandemic began when restaurants shut down or were compelled to offer abbreviated menus for takeout. The second arrived shortly after, when a most important retail outlet for many of them also closed.

Traditionally, the Ann Arbor Farmers Market blooms in April, when the hardy vendors of winter apples and root vegetables join greenhouse growers bringing the first tomato plants and zinnia seedlings for gardeners looking to get a jump on summer. Not this year.

Governor Whitmer's executive order didn't specifically close farmers markets, since makers and sellers of food are considered essential businesses, but the governor's edict deemed seedlings and flowers nonessential. And, unlike many farmers markets, Ann Arbor's comes under the aegis of the Ann Arbor Parks and Recreation Commission, whose activities and facilities were all closed in mid-March.

"It's a difficult time for farmers, and every farmer's situation is different," sighs Stephanie Willette, Ann Arbor market manager and owner of Two Tracks Acres, a farm in Grass Lake. "Some have found alternative markets for their produce, some have started online businesses for ordering, some have stands where customers can pay in advance and pick up goods without human interaction, and some have been fortunate and found a market for their produce at Argus Farm Stop, Agricole in Chelsea, or in a cooperative arrangement with other farms. I'm trying to help them make connections."

Willette anticipates that many of her vendors "will find it tough getting through spring" and will be forced to throw out unsold products, plants, and produce. She cites the experience of Wisconsin farmers, who were forced to dump more than 25,000 gallons of milk. Like other local farmers, Willette and her husband plan to grow "fewer flowers, more vegetables."

And they've "scrambled to start an online business, with orders picked up on site."

While Willette tries negotiating with the Parks and Recreation Commission to create a farmers market model that won't violate social distancing regulations, some farmers have been seeking whatever assistance is available. It isn't much.

The American Farmland Trust has launched a Farmer Relief Fund (farmland.org/farmer-relief-fund) that offers cash grants of up to \$1,000. Slow Food Huron Valley, a 501(c)3, provides mini-grants up to \$500 "to strengthen our region's food system, build community food security, and preserve our culinary heritage." But these grants may be too little and arrive too late to help; the AFT estimates that farmers nationwide may lose as much as \$1.3 billion in March and April alone.

There's no shortage of work to do on a farm, but there is a shortage of profit margin," points out Dale Lesser, the fourth generation of his family on Lesser Farms in Scio Twp. Lesser raises beef cattle, chickens, honeybees, hay, corn, and apples on 1,200 acres. "The coronavirus is disrupting the market badly. It's driv-

en milk prices down by 29 percent. Prices of grain are below cost levels—corn is selling for \$3, and it costs more than that to raise it. Fertilizer prices have gone up precipitously."

The litany continues: "When restaurants closed, it killed the price of beef. Closed restaurants mean everyone is home grilling hamburgers—that meat comes from older cows versus young steers. My slaughterhouse in Pennsylvania is closed, due to Covid, so my steers can't go to market when they're scheduled. I haven't been paid for them, and I'll have to continue feeding them while they'll continue getting fatter and heavier."

With ethanol plants shut down, his corn crop sales are endangered—"We raise corn to feed our livestock, for export, and to produce ethanol." Ethanol is blended with gasoline, but, with fewer people driving, gas sales have nosedived.

Necessary spring projects have been interrupted. "I get my drain tiles from Chelsea Lumber, and they were closed down—I don't know why, since Menards is open." And, if this isn't enough, President Trump's trade war with China has affected farmers "a great deal." This has threatened his corn sales for export and, directly and indirectly, his beef sales.

On the plus side, right now his daily supply of eggs disappears by noon from his stand on Island Lake Rd., and the honey he harvests from hundreds of hives is selling well—"but that's an extra, not a necessity during times when budgets are tight." Looking ahead, U-M is his biggest customer for his fall apple crop—"If it doesn't open in time, I'll be left eating a lot of apples," he says. "It's hard for farmers to change really quickly, especially when we don't know how long this is going to last."

"I don't think anyone really knows what farmers are going through."

"This year is going to be really rough for us," says Alexandra Cacciari, co-owner of the thirty-acre Seeley Farm on Warren Rd. "Some of our biggest sales opportunities for flowers—Easter, graduations, showers, and weddings—have been postponed or canceled, and Mother's Day and Memorial Day sales opportunities may disappear, too. On top of that, since most restaurants are closed, that very important market for our vegetables has dried up."

A major portion of Seeley Farm's revenue comes from sales at the Ann Arbor Farmers Market. In unfortunate timing, just prior to Covid-19, they had decided to change their crop mix from 25 percent flowers and 75 percent vegetables to fifty-fifty. "Now the farmers market is closed, and flower sales have been categorized as nonessential, so I can't sell my flowers or plants—even though Meijer's and other big-box stores can sell them."

She continues to hope the Ann Arbor Farmers Market will reopen, with new regulations, as soon as possible. "I think we can operate it safely, perhaps with one-way traffic and a limited number of shoppers at a time." Meanwhile, she says, she is doing as much as she can to pilot her business away from cut flowers, potted flowers, and seedlings at this late date. "We'll plant more and different vegetables. Green beans, for instance, are customer favorites, but they are labor-intensive to harvest, so we've stayed away from them in the past. But we'll plant them now." She adds, "Unfortunately, I've already paid for a shipment of dahlias, and I have flowers growing in my greenhouses."



ALL PHOTOS BY ADRIAN WYLLIE

Kim Bayer's Slow Farm has room for social distancing.

ditions, market conditions, market demands, crop conditions. This is a time that offers us a chance to embrace change. It will make us stronger and better. There are important issues on the horizon; we have the opportunity to address them now."

White Lotus Farms on W. Liberty Rd. "just happened to be ready for the challenge," says Amy Blondin, managing partner of the farm's creamery. "We had just developed an online system before the stay-in-place regulations went into effect; we launched it that week." Customers order vegetables, greens, breads, and some prepared foods online then collect them—prepaid, pre-packaged, and contact-free—on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

The Buddhist community acquired fifteen acres in 2007. Ten members cultivate the land, harvest crops, bake breads, milk goats, make cheese, cook meals, and run the sales component.

"We keep adapting," Blondin says. "We plan and replan, trying to respond and adapt quickly to an uncertain future. We feel up for the challenge."

Slow Farm on Whitmore Lake Rd. is a certified organic you-pick farm covering 187 acres of fields, woodlands, and marshes three miles north of downtown. Owner Kim Bayer, a former media and library science employee at U-M, grows eighty crops. "It's unusual to see a certified organic farm open to the public," she says, "but we want to encourage families to come here and see how fruits and vegetables grow and experience a life most have never seen firsthand." She believes the you-pick format will work "because our farm is so large, so social distancing won't be a problem if the regulations are still in effect when our crops ripen."

She's never sold her produce at the Ann Arbor Farmers Market, but 90 percent of her restaurant business has disappeared. In partnership with nearby farmers, Bayer has launched an online market, Slow Farm and Friends. She says Slow Farm debit membership cards of \$100, \$300, or \$500 will guarantee \$110, \$345, or \$600 "of the best produce you've ever tasted."

Unlike most other farms, Slow Farm is now a SNAP-authorized vendor, meaning it accepts food assistance cards, and it's been approved for Double-Up Food Bucks, so everyone using their SNAP benefits receives double value on purchases.

"It's a difficult time and also a meaningful time to reflect on the things that are truly the most important in our lives and on our planet," Bayer says. "I think the realization is finally hitting home that without farms, there will be no food. My hope is that we use this turning point ... to shift toward new and better priorities: taking care of each other and taking care of our world."

"I'm watching with bated breath to hear what will happen in the coming weeks."

Karlene Goetz is facing the same challenge. Goetz Family Farm south of Dundee raises seedlings, hanging baskets, and flowers on twenty-five acres and in four greenhouses—"None of which are regarded as essential." Another four greenhouses contain vegetables. "But in the early months of the year—through June—flowers account for 75 percent of our profits," she says. "We don't want to put the public in danger, of course, but we think there are ways we can sell our products safely."

Jill Lada of Green Things Farm on Nixon Rd. echoes her thoughts and concerns. "The future feels very uncertain. The Ann Arbor Farmers Market was the largest portion of our income, although we do okay with direct sales."

Fortunately, before the coronavirus hit, Green Things Farm had spent the winter preparing for its new community-supported agriculture venture (CSA). Customers purchase shares and receive a box of seasonal fruits and vegetables every week.

"Traditionally we've done a fall CSA, but this will be our first year with a spring CSA, as well as our open-air farm stand, and we're partnering with other farms," she explains. Green Things customers can place Internet orders by Thursday night and collect their produce in sanitized containers at the farm on Saturdays. "We're hoping to encourage the public to buy direct from farmers."

Meanwhile, Green Things continues to supply its last two restaurant customers, Spencer and Grange Kitchen, and they deliver produce to Argus Farm Stop. Although the farm totals 100 acres, they cultivate only six acres very intensely, with rapid crop rotation. "That expands our production by 300 percent," Lada says. "We harvest and replant the same day, and we're working to improve more of our soil."

Some farms, either by happenstance or intention, are positioned well. "I'm actually not worried about any negative impact

this situation will have on the way I farm or what I plant," says Richard Andres, owner of Tantré Farm outside Chelsea, despite the fact "a significant amount" of his business was generated at the Ann Arbor Farmers Market. "We're in the business of growing organic food, and food is an essential commodity," he says. "At a time like this, farmers know that they're helping others."

Since 1993, Andres and his wife, Deb Lentz, have raised between eighty and 100 varieties of vegetables, mushrooms, herbs, and flowers on forty acres, and they raise cows and chickens as well. CSA shares in the past accounted for as much as 50 percent of the farm's sales. Andres expects



"I don't think anyone really knows what farmers are going through," Lesser says.

that percentage will rise this year.

By mid-April, they were beginning to plant. "We raise two to three crops on the land each year, but eight cycles of lettuce and greens, all of them hand-harvested," he says. "This is intensive labor."

Tantré has recently partnered with three other local farmers to expand its CSA program. "I'm not worried," Andres repeats. "Food is an essential component of everyone's life. This current situation makes us all appreciate the essential things in our lives."

"I think people are regaining a local focus, realizing who they are, and what is important in life. We have to help each other out. Until this happened, too many people had lost connections to their neighbors and community. The virus and the presidential election combined have created dialogue about important issues: health care, locally produced products, and above all, environmental concerns."

"Farmers are the most adaptive people—they have to be," he points out. "They're used to adapting to climate con-

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The JOURNALISTS

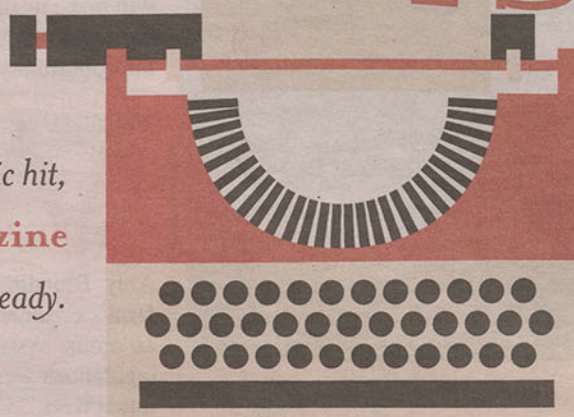
John Bebow began his newspaper career as a carrier for the *Lansing State Journal* more than forty years ago, collecting two dollars a week from the customers on his route.

He's now the president and CEO of *Bridge*, an online nonprofit newsmagazine based in Ann Arbor, as well as the Center for Michigan, its parent organization. And he muses on what a revenue stream like that would mean for his publication, even without adjusting for inflation.

"If we got two dollars a week from 10,000 readers, that would be a million dollars a year," Bebow says. That would represent about 40 percent of the center's annual budget—about twice the current share. Almost half comes from foundation grants and the rest from Phil Power, the Ann Arbor entrepreneur and philanthropist who sold his group of sixty-four newspapers in 2005 and founded the Center for Michigan the next year.

Bebow doesn't just pull the \$1 million figure out of his hat. It's about what *Bridge* needs to meet its goal of getting 40 percent of its revenue from readers by 2025. So it's timely that readership exploded when Covid-19 hit Detroit. *Bridge*'s tough but compassionate coverage of the metro area's overburdened hospitals—a joint project with the *Detroit Free Press*—brought 3.75 million visits to its virtual pages in March. That "exceeded all of 2019, which was our best year yet," says editor David Zeman.

When the pandemic hit,
Bridge Magazine
was ready.



The collaboration with Michigan's largest newspaper—"on guard for 189 years"—was more than a stunning endorsement of *Bridge*'s work. It was further evidence of the storm blowing through the media business.

The collaboration began when Zeman took a walk with his friend and former *Free Press* colleague Jim Schaefer. Zeman "suggested it, and I thought it would be a good idea," says Schaefer, who is co-supervising the paper's pandemic coverage.

Free Press editor Peter Bhatia "bought into it pretty quickly," Schaefer adds. "The reason, I think, is because of the public service it provides. That sounds hokey, but it's really true."

"It's a combination of a tremendously big story and news organizations—even big daily news organizations—that are

more inclined [now] to cooperate when the need arises, both for civic reasons and for journalistic reasons," says Zeman. "We think our time is better spent cooperating on getting into the story of what's happening in the hospitals rather than competing."

The collaboration has produced a string of powerful articles. "Hospitals have strong defense systems," Schaefer says, "but we wanted to find out what was happening with frontline workers from them, not through a filter. It takes pretty high-level reporting to get behind hospital walls and hospital curtains to emphasize how challenging things are and what frontline workers are experiencing, what they need, and what kind of patient care is being delivered."

The project began with a jolting report on health care workers dying on the front lines. "That was an incredibly tough story to do because it has to be handled sensitively, and you're trying to get accurate information," says Robin Erb, the *Bridge* health care reporter who worked at the *Free Press* from 2007 to 2015. "It was easier to split up that work and do the best story possible, for both of us."

Another lengthy April article, by *Bridge* reporter Kelly House, detailed how hospitals were bidding up some nurses' pay even while laying off others. "Things are changing so quickly, and stories happen so quickly, there's not really a formal process" for deciding who does what, Erb says. "We just make phone calls to each other. We'll take the lead on some stories, and they take the lead on others."

"In a time like this," House says, "where there can never be enough coverage, and there's a hunger for information and a lot of questions that have yet to be answered, to me it just comes down to that instinct among journalists to serve the public. And, with

limited resources, we're not serving the public to the best of our abilities if we're duplicating effort."

Before the *Freep*, *Bridge* had another unlikely ally: Facebook.

The social media behemoth launched its Facebook Journalism Project just over three years ago, asserting that "we care a great deal about making sure that a healthy news ecosystem and journalism can thrive." Of course, it was the rise of Facebook and its peers that blew up the longtime business model for print publications.

There are still stories to cover, and journalists as eager to cover them as readers are for them to do it. But the old system—where the product for sale was not the newspaper itself but its readers' eyes, and the customers weren't the readers but the advertisers who paid to access them—is rapidly dying. Scary studies abound that document the effects of "news deserts" on communities: lower voter turnout, greater polarization, and increased municipal borrowing costs (because lenders are aware that there's one less watchdog keeping an eye on city government).

Bridge is one of more than 200 news organizations in the U.S. trying to figure out a sustainable nonprofit model, and one of seventeen that Facebook solicited in 2018 to participate in the initial class of its Accelerator Program, designed to educate them in techniques to drive traffic and inspire readers to contribute.

Bill Emkow, *Bridge*'s growth strategist, was wary when he was contacted about the program. "The first question on my mind was: what does Facebook want from us?" he recalls. "I joked regularly that this was blood money for what happened in 2016 with fake news."

Now, he says, "I look at it as an investment by Facebook to change the narrative of what Facebook's impact on news is—a way to say 'we're helping journalism, not hurting journalism.'"

In *Bridge*'s case, at least, that narrative is close to the mark. After implementing the techniques that Emkow, Bebow, and membership director Amber DeLind learned in the twelve-week program, *Bridge*'s reader revenue and number of donors has nearly tripled, and its user count (a rough equivalent of newspaper circulation) rose 250 percent.

DeLind points out that, prior to Accelerator, *Bridge* didn't even have a formal membership program, much less a membership director. Its principal connection to readers and their concerns was through its public engagement program, which she led, consisting of 100–150 "community conversations" annually around the state, an enterprise she led for six years before assuming her present role.

There was a "donate" box on the home page, but it was producing only about 1 percent of the publication's revenue. One of the first steps toward enhanced support was making that box more prominent, positioning it more attractively, and adding a gentle reminder that while *Bridge* is free to read, it isn't free to produce.

Founder Phil Power grew the Center for Michigan's email newsletter into a vital news source.
CEO John Bebow learned crucial lesson from the Facebook Journalism Project.





A Zoom staff meeting in April. For Ron French (center row right), Bridge's job offer "seemed like a lifeboat" after four rounds of layoffs at the *Detroit News*.

"The Facebook Journalism Project, for us, was like a master's program in understanding news customers, getting more of them to read your stuff, and providing enough value that more of them voluntarily pay for it," says Bebow. "We traveled around the country and went through a series of seminars and coaching and data analysis with some of the best in the business."

"I was always good at growing digital metrics," says Emkow, who'd worked at WXYZ TV, the *Free Press*, and MLive. "What was eluding me was how to capitalize on loyal readers. I knew there was something there, but I didn't quite understand it. When I got into the Accelerator, everything made more sense. I didn't feel like it was a huge shock, more like a revelation, something in front of me the whole time that I didn't quite understand."

The revelation was a business concept called the "marketing funnel" that maps the process whereby people move from awareness of a product or service to being a customer. In the case of a non-profit news organization like *Bridge*, the top of the funnel is made up of everyone who's ever visited the site. The funnel narrows as the level of engagement increases; at the bottom are the readers who have been persuaded to make a donation and become members. The prize is at the bottom, but the process begins at the top.

While tricks of the trade like search engine optimization are undeniably helpful, *Bridge*'s view is that the most effective way to maximize visits is with stories that attract readers. That's what will eventually pay off, both journalistically and financially.

"To get more people who are willing to give us their hard-earned money, we need more people reading," says DeLind, "and I don't think we've approached our ceiling there." As readership surges, Bebow emails, they're gaining forty or fifty new members a day.

"Surely we uncovered a niche filled with low-hanging fruit," says Power, "but our ability to maintain our growth depends entirely on our ability to make the paper interesting and relevant to the needs of readers, and to do the kind of journalism that we think most people want."

Despite Power's newspaper background, when he launched the Center for Michigan, there was no hint that *Bridge* would become its predominant project. "We had three areas of activity," Power recalls. "One was a newsletter—at first, in a testimony to our brilliant marketing thinking, we called it the newsletter. One was our community conversations, and one was linking our journalism with policy research."

Bebow vividly remembers that time. "I was the editor, we had one reporter [Ron

BridgeMI.com saw more traffic in March than in all of 2019. Forty or fifty new members are signing up every day.

French, who is still there] and some freelancers, and we cobbled together kind of a weekly online magazine with a few stories a week. That was in 2011."

"For the first four or five years, there were no beats at *Bridge*," says French. "Everyone sort of got together and talked about what issues they saw happening in Michigan, then someone raised their hand and wrote the story."

One day in 2012, French raised his hand and became the lead reporter on a multipart series that represented what he deems "the first big impact we had on the state." When attendees at many of the community conversations complained that there were no spots for their preschoolers in a state-funded program for low-income kids, "John and I discovered there were 30,000 four-year-olds in the state who qualified for the program but weren't getting in because the state wasn't providing enough money."

After the stories were published, then-Governor Rick Snyder more than doubled the funding for the program in 2013 and 2014. "That sort of set the tone for what *Bridge* does ever since then," French says.

French used to write important articles like that for the *Detroit News*. But "I'd been through four rounds of layoffs in four years," he recalls, "and at the time there was difficulty getting the sort of long projects and explanatory journalism that I specialized in into the paper, because of a shrinking news hole."

"When John approached me [about joining *Bridge*], it seemed like a lifeboat to me. I was not anticipating, to be honest, that it would be such a lifeboat for readers, too."

Power was having similar thoughts. "About four or five years ago, we decided that of our three lines of business, *Bridge* seemed to be the one that was the most scalable, the most cost-efficient, and the most efficient vehicle to reach the largest number of thoughtful people and have an impact on state policy makers."

Now *Bridge* has a full-time staff of a dozen journalists, based primarily in Lansing and southeast Michigan, who produce an online package of mostly investigative stories that has earned four straight Newspaper of the Year awards from the Michigan Press Association.

"We had no idea what to expect," French says. "We knew that we wanted to try to provide more in-depth news to readers than what they were getting in a world that was changing to Facebook posts and tweets. We found a real thirst for it. Sometimes it feels like we're the only steak restaurant in a town full of hamburger joints."

Whether they're hungry or thirsty, or both, support from readers is crucial to *Bridge*'s survival. For its first five years, 53 percent of its income came from foundation grants, 46 percent from the Power family and a measly 1 percent from reader donations. Today's percentages show a significant improvement, mostly due to the Accelerator, but they're still a ways away from the goal of getting 40 percent from readers by 2025.

"Many nonprofit news organizations that I've come in contact with are very much reliant on foundations and philanthropy," says Emkow. "That's one of the things we're trying to avoid."

"We are having success in changing the revenue model, but we're still pretty heavily reliant on foundation support," Bebow admits. "We would never have gotten to the point we're at today without the vision and commitment of the Power family and Michigan-based foundations, but reader donations are what is ultimately going to make a true market for nonprofit news models like *Bridge*. We've got a long way to go, but we're on a great trajectory."

The people in the trenches are on board with that. "I do not feel anymore as if I have to thank a car dealership or a grocery store for my job," says French. "It's the readers who both provide us with the funding and also give us most of our ideas."



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Thank you!

Dear Observer Friends,

In mid-March, as we were preparing the April Observer to go to press, the coronavirus pandemic had become a terrifying reality in our community and throughout the world.

The situation was changing by the hour. Local businesses were already struggling and as a result, we were experiencing a significant loss of advertising, our primary source of revenue. Ongoing losses were inevitable.

On March 30, 2020, we reached out to you for support by launching a GoFundMe campaign. Over 1,000 readers responded with overwhelming generosity and kindness--and we are truly grateful. At this point, we have decided to suspend our campaign and encourage you to contribute to other local businesses and non-profit organizations that desperately need our help.

We care deeply about our community—and are dedicated to journalism with honesty and integrity. Now, more than ever, we believe that independent journalism is essential to critical thought and social connection. You have encouraged and inspired us to continue our work.

We also care deeply about our dedicated Observer 'family', including fifteen full-time staff and dozens of freelance writers, artists, and photographers. They work passionately behind the scenes to make it happen, and like so many of you, are now working safely and remotely from home.

Your gifts and our generous sponsors and advertisers allowed us to publish more articles this month, and also helped support publication of the 'Community Resource Guide for COVID-19' you see on the opposite page. The guide is also available online at AnnArborObserver.com. The coronavirus pandemic has changed our lives, and we're all learning how to navigate in a strange new world.

We are grateful to our friends, health care workers, safety, food and service industry providers, volunteers, and everyone in our community who has worked hard to keep all of us safe throughout this crisis.

Along with many local businesses, we applied for a loan through the federal CARES Act, SBA Payment Protection Program (PPP). We are happy to announce that the loan was approved, although as of press date, we had not yet received the funds.

Your gifts, the PPP funds and the ongoing support of our advertisers will allow us to continue publishing the Observer for the next few months. We are committed to keeping you in touch with our town—this month, next month, and hopefully for many years to come. We look forward to a safer world and the opportunity to celebrate the Observer's forty-fifth anniversary with you in 2021.

Thank you for letting the Observer be a part of this community for so many years

Thank you for supporting our beloved local businesses and non-profit organizations.

We are all in this together.

Patricia M. Garcia, John Hilton and the Ann Arbor Observer staff

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COMMUNITY RESOURCE

GUIDE FOR COVID-19

Where to Turn

Among the most difficult aspects of the Covid-19 outbreak has been that many families and individuals are facing problems on multiple fronts. This guide brings together as many resources as we can, organized by need. General resources are listed first, followed by some of the most urgent services.

The pages that follow provide additional information about Health Resources, Community Services, and Government Services.

General Resources

Confused by the rumors and hearsay about the Covid-19 pandemic? For the latest and most accurate information, consult the **Washtenaw County Health Department** (washtenaw.org/3095/covid-19), the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services' **coronavirus website and hotline** (michigan.gov/coronavirus, 888-535-6136, daily 8 a.m.-5 p.m.), or the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (cdc.gov/coronavirus). Scroll past the marketing messages on **Michigan Medicine's Covid-19 page** (uofmhealth.org/covid-19-update) to track the number of Covid-positive patients in its hospitals and view color-coded map of cases in Michigan.

The longtime go-to for help in Washtenaw County has been the local chapters of the **United Way** (uwwashtenaw.org/covid-19-community-resources-0). It operates a phone and online referral guide to a wide range of social services. **Dial 2-1-1 (24 hours) or visit unitedway.org/2-1-1.** Online chat and

email support are also available.

United Way's **Covid-19 Relief Fund** is raising and distributing funds to support small businesses during the pandemic. To donate, go to uwgive.org. The organization also welcomes volunteers—call (734) 921-8200.

Washtenaw County has a concise guide to essential services online at washtenaw.org/3100/COVID-19-Essential-Services-Updates.

The University of Michigan Poverty Services office has an extensive list of pandemic resources in its online **Michigan COVID-19 Pandemic Resource Guide**, tinyurl.com/vwrvxmf. Not at all restricted to the university community and its members, this guide, available in Spanish and Arabic in addition to English, covers everything from health information to unemployment insurance, food assistance, and mortgage payment deferrals.

The nonprofit Friends in Deed is operating a **searchable online help desk** (helpdesk.friendsindeedmi.org/) that shares food, medical, and financial tips—and also advice on how to keep kids and teens busy at home.

The online magazine **Concentrate** (tinyurl.com/sdgbxh9) maintains its own updated list of Covid-19 resources. It includes not only general resources about the virus but also links to information about business assistance from the A2Y Chamber of Commerce, Destination Ann Arbor's business toolkit, and programs from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, the New Economy Relief Fund, and the Washtenaw Small Business Emergency Relief Fund and Washtenaw Small

Business Resiliency Fund. There are also links for agencies including the Ann Arbor Community Foundation and the United Way, that are offering direct support or zero-interest loans to Washtenaw County nonprofits.

The **Area Agency on Aging 1-B** has a webpage of Covid-19 updates for seniors (aaalb.org/coronavirus/). The agency maintains a useful list of stores with senior hours as well as grocery delivery and pickup information, listings of circulating scams, phone support groups to help to counteract feelings of isolation, and places to turn for food assistance and utility help, as well as downloadable lists of resources for the entire six-county southeastern Michigan area.

And you can always find emergency numbers and websites of all kinds in the **Ann Arbor Observer City Guide**. If you don't have your print copy, go to annarborobserver.com and click on the "City Guide" link. You'll find sections devoted to Abuse, Assault, and Domestic Violence; Family and Housing Crises; Health Emergencies; Police and Fire; Substance Abuse; Utilities; and more.

Housing

There is a **statewide moratorium on evictions**. For agencies that **help with rent payments**, try United Way's 2-1-1 phone line or website (above). Under the federal CARES Act, homeowners with federally insured mortgages can apply for **mortgage forbearance** for as long as a year.

The **Shelter Association of Washtenaw County** has expanded capacity to allow social distancing. Entry to all shelters is via Housing Access for Washtenaw

County (734-961-1999, Mon.-Fri., 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.).

The **SafeHouse Domestic violence shelter** (734-995-5444, safehousecenter.org) remains open. The **Ozone House youth shelter** is temporarily closed, but its transitional housing for young adults is operating, as is its crisis line: (734) 662-2222.

Hunger

Food Gatherers has information and a map of **food pantries** at foodgatherers.org/needfood. (734) 761-2796.

Meals on Wheels is providing meals for homebound adults on a reduced schedule. (734) 998-6686, med.umich.edu/aamealsonwheels/

Internet Access

The **Ann Arbor District Library's** buildings might be closed, but the **WiFi** is still running strong. For the strongest signals, try the Downtown Library staff parking lot or the lots at the Westgate and Malletts Creek branches.

Comcast customers who can't pay Internet service fees because of the crisis should contact the company. Go to corporate.comcast.com/covid-19 or call (734) 224-6850 or (800) 934-6489. The company says it will not disconnect service or assess late fees during this period.

Comcast also has temporarily opened its **Xfinity WiFi hotspots** to non-subscribers. Look for "xfinitywifi" in your list of networks to see if one is available near you.

AT&T (att.com/help/covid-19/) and **Verizon** (verizonwireless.com/support/covid-19-faq) are suspending service termination and late fees for customers affected by the pandemic.

Utilities

All basic City of Ann Arbor services are continuing during the shutdown, including water and sewer service.

Water shutoffs are suspended during a statewide moratorium.

DTE customers with a sudden loss of income or medical condition, as well as vulnerable seniors, can call (800) 477-4747 to determine eligibility for payment assistance. **Consumers Power** customers: (800) 477-5050. Both companies are suspending shutoffs to low-income and senior customers during the crisis.

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Covid-19

Q&A

Q: Do I really have to keep social distancing?

A: Yes. "What everybody needs to do is to act as if there's a low risk of exposure every time they go out," advises Susan Ringler-Cerniglia of the Washtenaw Department of Health. Social distancing, handwashing, and quarantine help "by slowing the spread of illness to not overwhelm the health systems. That's what this is all about."

Even people who feel fine can be infected with the novel coronavirus—and infect others. When the navy belatedly tested the entire crew of the aircraft carrier Theodore Roosevelt in April, it found that more than 600 were infected—but most had no symptoms.

Q: What if I think I may have Covid-19?

A: You have a bit of a cough, maybe a fever. What should you do?

According to Ringler-Cerniglia, it's likely to be a while before mass testing for people with mild symptoms is available in the U.S. "We hope that our ability to test people quickly and in mass numbers will continue to improve," she says, but in the meantime, "the medical advice and the medical treatment is really the same with and without testing."

"We want you to stay home. We want you to isolate yourself from anyone else in the household as much as possible. Many people who get this can recover on their own that way."

Consult your doctor by phone, and be prepared to seek treatment quickly if needed—the infection can progress very rapidly. "This virus is no joke," according to Sergeant Eugene Rush of the Washtenaw County Sheriff who contracted Covid-19. "It has taken a toll on me like no other. I consider myself to be pretty healthy ... but the virus is so powerful that it will make you feel like you're dying."

Call your doctor if you experience:

- Fever that does not come down with medication.
- Vomiting or diarrhea lasting more than 24 hours or any bloody diarrhea.
- Shortness of breath.
- Symptoms that keep getting worse and feel unmanageable.

If you do not have a doctor, call the Washtenaw County Health Department

at (734) 544-6700 and leave a message. Health Department staff check messages multiple times per day.

Call ahead to the emergency department at Michigan Medicine (734-936-6666) or St. Joseph Mercy (734-712-3000) or call 9-1-1 if you have:

- Difficulty breathing/inability to catch your breath.
- Chest pain.
- Feel faint, light-headed or unstable in any other way.

At press time, testing is by referral only. Michigan Medicine patients and employees can call (734) 763-6336. St. Joseph Mercy Hospital patients can call (833) 247-1258.

If testing expands as Ringler-Cerniglia hopes, local institutions are working to make it more accessible. "We recognize that not everyone has access to a car to access the drive-in testing locations," says Neel Hajra, CEO of the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation. "We're working with local partners to see if we can deploy capital to expand testing to the most vulnerable communities in the county, which are also the ones hardest hit by Covid-19."

Q: What if I don't have insurance?

A: If you do not have health insurance, the Washtenaw Health Plan can assist you in securing coverage. Ringler-Cerniglia advises that you don't wait until you experience symptoms to line up coverage. Call (734) 544-3030 or email whp@washtenaw.org.

The St. Joseph Mercy Neighborhood Family Health Center in Ypsilanti (stjoessannarbor.org/neighborhood-family-health-center, (734) 547-7977) accepts all insurances and treats county residents without insurance. Ypsi's Corner Health Center (cornerhealth.org 734-484-3600) provides services to people ages twelve to twenty-five regardless of their insurance status or ability to pay. The three Packard Health (packardhealth.org) locations accept Medicaid and offer sliding scale fees: Ann Arbor West, (734) 926-4900; Ann Arbor East, (734) 971-1073; and Ypsilanti, (734) 985-7200.

Q: I feel fine, but someone in my house has a fever and cough. What should we do?

A: "The last thing we want to do is have someone become sick in that household and then have everyone else get sick in that household," says Ringler-Cerniglia. "Anybody with any symptoms should do the best they can to isolate from everyone else."

If someone in your household is infected, if possible have that person sleep in a separate room and avoid food preparation, Ringler-Cerniglia advises, and everyone in the household should wear a mask.

As he recovers from Covid-19, Sergeant Rush is following this advice with his family. In a Facebook Live video shared by the sheriff's office, he revealed, "My oldest son, I'm pretty sure he does have it, he does have quite a few of the symptoms. So we are quarantining in the house in different sections of the house."

Q: What about my other health care needs?

A: Many health care providers are re-scheduling non-essential visits or turning them into video visits or e-visits. Michigan Medicine has changed the location for many of their still-scheduled outpatient visits to reduce risk of transmitting Covid-19. If you have a non-Covid-related healthcare appointment scheduled, contact your provider for current information.

Many pharmacies are also offering free delivery of prescriptions to reduce virus transmission.

Q: Between coronavirus anxiety, social distancing, and my kids out of school, I'm at the end of my rope. Where do I turn for mental health care?

A: Washtenaw County Community Mental Health CARES team operates a 24/7 crisis line during the Covid-19 response for support and resources about any mental health question. Call (734) 544-3050 or text "share" to 741741.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services has created a "warm line" staffed by individuals with a lived experience of mental illness. Washtenaw County Community Mental Health Direc-

tor Trish Cortes describes it as "another resource for folks if they just need to talk to someone who understands what it's like to be someone that lives with mental illness or just needs support." The warm line is available daily from 10 a.m.-2 a.m. at (888) 733-7753.

Many counselors and therapists have moved their treatment online.

"I never wanted to do telehealth conferencing, but because of the situation I've been doing it," says Su Hansen, a therapist in private practice. "And I've been very, very surprised that it has worked so well."

Q: Being isolated is making my elderly neighbor really anxious. Is there anyone who could check in on her?

A: Jewish Family Services (734-769-0209, jfsannarbor.org) is offering telephone reassurance to all seniors who need it from a trained volunteer. Email jsinger@jfsannarbor.org to arrange.

Q: Any advice for managing my own stress?

A: This pandemic is stressful for everyone. The health department advises that you find ways to stay connected to your loved ones, maintain a schedule for your day, limit information overload, and practice deep breathing exercises, mindfulness, or other methods of meditation.

Many local wellness practitioners are offering online sessions. Rec and Ed has launched aarecedonline.com with remote classes in yoga, arts, music, gardening, and more. Mindful City Ann Arbor (mindfulcityannarbor.org) has transitioned their popular "Being in Tune" free guided mindfulness meditation to online.

Q: I've been drinking way too much since this started. Where can I find substance abuse help?

A: "Addicts and alcoholics are pretty creative," observes Jim Balmer, president of Dawn Farm (dawnfarm.org). Social media groups and online mutual aid groups have proliferated during the pandemic.

Glynis Anderson, CEO of Home of New Vision (homeofnewvision.org, (734) 975-1602, says they're still "connecting people to recovery coaches and case managers," using phone screenings to direct people to the appropriate level of care and phone or telemedicine sessions for recovery coaching. For a list of SMART Recovery and All Recovery online meetings, see their website or call them at (734) 975-1602 for a screening. Huron Valley Area Intergroup maintains a directory of online 12 step meetings at hvai.org and offers a helpline at (734) 482-5700.

Information about Covid-19 testing availability, and medical guidelines are changing rapidly. These answers are accurate as of press time. Please visit washtenaw.org/covid19 for up to date information from the Washtenaw County Health Department.

Community Services

A selection of the most essential services for surviving the pandemic.

See also "Where to Turn" on the first page of this guide.

Child Care

Child Care Network. childcarenetwork.org. CCN's office is closed, but it is partnering with the Washtenaw Intermediate School District (WISD) to connect essential workers with licensed child care programs. Intake online at helpmegrow-mi.org/essential.

Hunger

Food Gatherers, 1 Carrot Way, (734) 761-2796. foodgatherers.org. Food rescue program and food bank supplies a network of food pantries and meal programs. Drive-through pickup of prepackaged boxes or ready-to-eat bagged meals. **Donations** accepted Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Food Gatherers and Michigan Medicine are accepting **donated food and personal protective equipment** at the U-M North Campus Research Complex (2800 Plymouth, loading dock 90). 1-5 p.m. Mon.-Sat. Most gifts are tax-deductible under the CARES Act.

Community Action Network (CAN). (734) 994-2985. canwashtenaw.org. Food pantries and distributions at the Arrowwood Hills, Bryant, Hikone, and Green Baxter Court community centers remain open with extended hours.

Jewish Family Services, (734) 769-0209. jfsannarbor.org. Specialty food pantry (kosher, halal, gluten free) offers delivery during the pandemic—order online or by phone (prompt six). Home meal delivery.

Meals on Wheels, 2025 Traverwood, Suite F. (734) 998-6686. med.umich.edu/aamealsonwheels/ Delivers meals to homebound adults Tues., Thurs., Sat. (quantities sufficient to cover non-delivery days).

SOS Community Services (101 S. Huron, Ypsilanti, 734-961-1206, soscs.org). Food pantry open without appointment. Pick up pre-bagged groceries. Tues. 1-6:30 p.m. & Wed. 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

SNAP and FAP: Food Assistance Program recipients are not required to report qualifying work activities during the pandemic. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program recipients may get benefits up to the maximum

amount allowed. Application helpline: (888) 544-8773.

Ann Arbor Public School food distribution:

To-go breakfasts and lunches available at many locations, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. See a2schools.org/Page/15641 for information. If you cannot make it to a pickup location, call the the AAPS Food Service Hotline at (734) 994-2265.

Ann Arbor Community Center, 625 N. Main. (734) 662-3128. Food pantry currently by delivery only.

Hope Clinic, 518 Harriet, Ypsilanti, (734) 484-2989. thehopeclinic.org. Evening hot meals, emergency groceries, and produce/pantry appointments.

Peace Neighborhood Center, 1111 N. Maple. (734) 795-5422. peaceneighborhoodcenter.org. Food pantry Tues. 10 a.m.-2 p.m.,



JOSIE SCHNEIDER

Thomas LaSalvia of WISE Aging Services at Jewish Family Services extended meal delivery to 200 households and grocery delivery to 400 more.

Thurs. 10 a.m.-2 p.m., & Fri. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Fresh produce, lunch, breads.

SOS Community Services, 114 N. River St., Ypsilanti. (734) 485-8730, info@soscs.org. Food pantry open Tues. 1-6:30 p.m. and Weds. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. for appointments and walk-ins. Pre-packaged fresh produce, bread, canned, and boxed items available for all; receive a bag of food at the door. No more than six individuals in the pantry at a time. Call for more information.

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church breakfast program, 306 N. Division, (734) 663-0518, ext. 206. breakfast@standrewsaa.org. Hot carryout breakfasts for pickup only.

Housing

Housing Access for Washtenaw County, (734) 961-1999. Point of entry to all county homeless shelters. HAWC is still operating the call center for those in a

housing crisis and in need of emergency shelter; no walk-ins at this time. Shelter diversion is being implemented as much as possible.

Shelter Association of Washtenaw County (SAWC), 312 W. Huron, (734) 662-2829. annarborshelter.org. SAWC is currently operating two off-site locations, a hotel and a congregation site, to reduce the head count at the **Delonis Center homeless shelter.** Delonis is functioning as an overflow with additional beds for anyone seeking emergency shelter.

Non-residential services are still available, though those coming to Delonis Center can expect a longer process to access resources, including a health screening at the door and limitations on the number of people in the building at a time.

The **PORT/PATH team,** embedded within Washtenaw County Community Mental Health (CMH), continues its outreach to people who are homeless and mentally ill.

Peace House (Jimmy Hill Memorial House), 3501 Stone School Rd. (734)

249-4198. ask.missiona2@gmail.com. Private "house of hospitality" open to serve the homeless Tues.-Fri. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. & Sun. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Dinner at 3 p.m. Food delivery available.

Michigan Ability Partners. mapagency.org. Food pantry is stocked and they are delivering to housing and payee clients on request. Weekly deliveries to the Grant Per Diem (GPD) program.

Business/Nonprofit Support

Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation Short-Term Cash Flow Loan Program. aaacf.org. Loans of \$5,000-\$50,000 to 501(c)3 nonprofits.

Washtenaw County Small Business Emergency Relief Fund. washtenawsbfc.com. Working capital grants of up to \$5,000 to local small businesses. Oversubscribed and not currently taking applications. Donations still needed. **micovidcare.com.** Website where local

businesses post information on how customers can support them and/or their staffs during the shutdown. Businesses use the main address to post requests. Supporters view them at micovidcare.com/directory.

savemifaves.org. Statewide site where customers can buy gift cards to support businesses suffering in the shutdown. Use the "town" pulldown to find Ann Arbor businesses.

Student Aid

Eastern Michigan University student emergency fund (up to \$750). emich.edu/gameabove/forms/emergency-fund.php

University of Michigan student emergency fund. deanofstudents.umich.edu/article/student-emergency-funds

Washtenaw Community College Student Emergency Fund (up to \$500). (734) 973-3300. wccnet.edu/succeed/personal/financial-emergency.php

Pet Services

Humane Society of Huron Valley. 3100 Cherry Hill, (734) 662-5585. hshv.org. Adoptions, drive-up and telemedicine vet appointments, fostering for pets whose people are undergoing treatment or otherwise unable to care for them. Apply online for help buying pet food at hshv.org/get-help/bountifulbowls/bountifulbowlsapplication.

Transportation

TheRide buses are currently free, but service frequency has been reduced and digital signs advise "essential trips only." Visit TheRide.org for the latest information. The **AirRide** bus to and from Metro Airport and the new **D2A2** Ann Arbor-to-Detroit express bus have both been suspended until further notice.

Parking in public parking structures in downtown Ann Arbor is free. Careful, though—you still have to feed the on-street parking meters.

Unemployment Benefits

Expanded unemployment benefits are available for those who've lost work because of the pandemic and shutdown. For the first time, **independent contractors** filing 1099 tax forms are also now eligible for benefits.

File by phone (866-500-0017) or online (michigan.gov/uia). **Filing days** are based on the first letter of the applicant's last name: people with names beginning with **A-L** apply by phone on Mon. & Weds., online Mon., Weds. & Fri. People with names beginning **M-Z** apply by phone Tues. & Thurs., online Tues., Thurs., and Sun. Makeup days: Sat. online, Fri. & Sat. by phone.

Veterans Services

Washtenaw County Veterans Affairs. washtenaw.org/959/Veterans-Affairs. Office is closed, but providing case management remotely and continuing to do intakes and move homeless veterans into grants-per-diem (GPD) and permanent housing.

DOMINICK SOKOLOFF

At Food Gatherers' northside warehouse, members of the Michigan National Guard are filling in for some of the food bank's stuck-at-home volunteers.



Government Services

City of Ann Arbor

"The City is 100 percent committed to the uninterrupted provision of basic services" during the Covid-19 shutdown, says mayor Christopher Taylor. "We will continue to provide basic services in absolutely all circumstances, which includes police, fire, water, wastewater, and solid waste."

The most visible change may be in the police department, where all officers have been issued N95 masks and gloves and other protective equipment. "We may act a little differently," advises AAPD chief Mike Cox. "We might want you to have a conversation outside of your home, maybe on your porch."

"The City as an organization does not provide direct human services," Taylor notes. "The most direct human service function that the City performs is the provision of housing through the Housing Commission. We as landlords have committed to no evictions."

On April 6, in a meeting via video conference, City Council approved \$200,000 of emergency spending for the Ann Arbor Housing Commission. These funds will be used for rent subsidy to prevent future evictions, increased security to protect vulnerable and high health risk populations, and food security for residents.

Washtenaw County

County government rarely gets the attention that city government does. With Covid-19, however, county government is leading the local response through its health department, community mental health, sheriff's department, and more. The health department coordinates the responses of health care, governmental, and other organizations. For example, health care providers, laboratories, and hospitals all report their testing results to the department. It uses them to form an overall picture of the disease spread, and also for individual follow up. With Covid-19, "we contact each and every person diagnosed to 'make sure that, first and foremost, they're getting the care that they need ... We also go through a very detailed timeline of where they've been and who they've been in contact with.' Everyone who's had close contact with them, such as attending a social



NANCY SHORE

Schools Donations

"As they delivered meals to the families with the greatest need, our staff was hearing that the families needed more than just food. They were also in desperate need of things like toilet paper, diapers, feminine hygiene products, and laundry detergent," reports Nancy Shore, Ann Arbor Public Schools Strategic Partnership and Volunteer Coordinator. By working with AAPS families, vendors, and partners, the district has been able to help fill these needs.

"The generosity of the community has been tremendous, but we still struggle to keep up," Shore explains. Shore was able to secure a donation of 450 rolls of toilet paper from the district's paper goods vendor—but all were gone in just one day of food distribution.

"Of course the families we are supporting are overjoyed for the help," notes Shore, "but what I didn't expect is how much it would mean for the donors. People appreciate being able to help—it gives them a sense of purpose to give back." To donate, visit a2schools.org/supportstudents or email partners@a2schools.org.

gathering, riding in the same car, or living in the same household, gets a "direct, personal notification."

Sheriff's Department

"It's important to us because we care about the people in the jail. It's important to us because we care about the community." That's how Washtenaw County Sheriff Jerry Clayton explains the changes his department is making in jail operations and deputy patrols.

The jail average daily count last year was 365. In mid April it was 151. Clayton says arrests are down, and some individuals have had their sentence or bond status changed through judicial review. Everyone entering the jail facility is screened, and so far, no prisoner had

the virus. "We have had to quarantine a couple of incarcerated individuals that were suspected on being infected," Clayton emails, "however their test came back negative."

Economic Development

To help address the economic hardship caused by the pandemic, the county has joined the Song Foundation, the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation, Bank of Ann Arbor, and others to create the \$1.3 million Washtenaw Small Business Emergency Relief Fund (washtenawsbf.com). Demand "has been incredible—far exceeded the funds available," observes Jenn Cornell Queen of SPARK, which is administering it. Grant applications are closed, but the

fund is still accepting donations to expand its impact.

Ann Arbor Public Schools

"At this time, even before our critical mission of teaching and learning, we are attending to issues of health and safety first," Ann Arbor Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Jeanice Swift wrote to families following Governor Whitmer's executive order closing schools for the rest of the school year.

All local school districts are rolling out plans to support student learning, maintain school feeding programs, provide technology needed to support online learning, and support the educational needs of students in special education.

The AAPS central resource page (a2schools.org/COVID-19) links to a trove of detailed information. For instance, the district's "continuity of learning plan" including three supported online platforms:

(Google Classroom, Moodle, and SeeSaw) and providing students with iPads

and Chromebooks. AAPS has delivered almost 2,000 devices, as well as mobile

hot spots to those without high speed internet access.

For tech support, the district's family help desk is open Mon.–Fri., 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. (734) 997-1222.

Many students depend on free or reduced breakfast and lunch during the school year, and AAPS spokesperson Andrew Cluley says the district "distributed over 100,000 meals in the first month, thanks to many community partners including Peace Neighborhood Center, Community Action Network, Avalon Housing and several other housing developments in the community. We are serving approximately 2,000 students every time we distribute food."

Special Education

The school closure and social distancing is hard on all students, especially for students with special education needs. AAPS support staff has been in direct contact with families to discuss student services during the closure.

AAPS also offers online resources and a parents of special needs student helpline at (734) 994-2318. While most of the hotline calls have been technology-related, Cluley shares the story of how one parent, "called in tears in need of some immediate help dealing with their child, she was grateful and relieved to know that a trained staff member was available to help and comforted when she heard a live voice and not a recording."

May Events

ALTERNATIVE ACTIVITIES

- 45** Local web pages and outdoor sanctuaries
Ella Bourland & Maggie McMillin

GALLERIES

- 45** Exhibits this month
Maggie McMillin

KIDS CALENDAR

- 46** Events for kids 12 and under
Ella Bourland & Maggie McMillin

MUSIC AT NIGHTSPOTS

- 47** Nightspots
John Hinchey & James M. Manheim
- 46** Bat Home
arwulf arwulf

TIPS FOR READING

Recurrent events are listed only on the date of their 1st occurrence, except for performing arts, which are always listed on each day they occur. Thus, the first week of each month will always contain information about events throughout the month.

Online event listings include a URL. This link either directs you to (1) a preregistration page or (2) the online location itself. For security reasons, preregistration may be required in order to limit the number of persons in attendance. To join online events, download the latest version of the video conferencing software you wish to use—Zoom, BlueJeans, or other—and follow the prompts.

See Nightspots, p. 47, for virtual shows at the Ark, Blind Pig, Blue Llama, & other clubs and households.

Tickets for events highlighted in yellow are available at a2tix.com.

The area code for telephone numbers listed is 734 unless otherwise indicated.

★ Denotes a free event

Note: This month's calendar includes both online and in-person events. Due to the **Covid-19 pandemic**, all listed in-person events are contingent upon the venue's opening up. Published events reflect plans as of press day (20 April). The most up-to-date calendar of events is available at AnnArborObserver.com

Whether these venues are open or not, we strongly recommend that you **stay home** until the public health crisis has abated.

We want to know about your event!

Please send us your press release by the **10th day of the preceding month**.

- **Email:** events@aaobserver.com
- **Phone:** 769-3175
- **Mail:** Calendar Editors, Ann Arbor Observer, 2390 Winewood, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103
- **Fax:** 769-3375
- **After-hours drop box:** left side of the Observer's front door facing Winewood

What gets in?

We give priority to Ann Arbor entertainment and other leisure events, but we also list activities elsewhere in Washtenaw County deemed of interest to our readers. Please submit materials as early as possible; items submitted after the 10th might not be included in the print calendar but will be added to our online calendar at AnnArborObserver.com.

Due to space limitations, many listings, especially for weekday daytime and recurrent events, appear only in the online calendar. This is not only an expanded version of the print calendar but is also continually updated and searchable. It includes listings, submitted by the public, of classes, religious services, political activities, and other types of events not suitable for print.

1 FRIDAY

★**43rd Annual May Day Celebration:** Ann Arbor Morris. All invited to join traditional English dances in celebration of this holiday. 6:30 a.m., U-M Nichols Arboretum (meet at the Observatory St. entrance). Free. Email a2morris@umich.edu to confirm.

★**"Clements Bookworm Book Circle":** U-M Clements Library. Every Friday. Library staff and fellows lead a book club-style discussion. Book selections TBA at bit.ly/2V6FQrK. 10 a.m. Preregistration required at myumi.ch/gjgzR for meeting URL. Free. 647-0864.

Gemini Livestream Concert. Every weekday. San-dor and Laszlo Slomovits of the nationally renowned local acoustic duo Gemini, along with San's folk musician daughter Emily, present short livestream concerts that can be reviewed on their Facebook page. The schedule: children's shows by San & Emily (Mon.) and Laz (Thurs.) and adult shows by Laz (Tues.), Emily (Wed.), and San & Emily (Fri.). On May 10, a **Mother's Day show**. 5 p.m., Facebook.com/GeminiChildrensMusic. Free, donations for various causes accepted during each performance.

★**Game Night: Sweetwaters Downtown.** May 1 & 15. All invited to play card & board games. Bring your own game, or use one provided. 6:30-10:30 p.m., Sweetwaters, 123 W. Washington. Free. 417-4266.

2 SATURDAY

★**42nd Annual Burns Park Run:** Burns Park Elementary School PTO. All invited to run a fun run, 5k, or 10k on their own, then post their time to the Burns Park Run's Facebook page. Proceeds benefit Burns Park PTO programs. All day Sat. & Sun. Facebook.com/BurnsParkRun. Free, donations accepted at BurnsParkRun.org. 747-6952.

★**"Virtual Community Forum: Covid-19 Update & Candidates' Corner":** Washtenaw County Democratic Party. Panel discussion with 4 candidates for Washtenaw County circuit court: ContilLegal managing attorney Guy Conti, Washtenaw County prosecuting attorney Amy Reiser, NachtLaw trial lawyer Nicholas Roumel, and Michigan attorney & clinical social worker Tracy Van den Bergh. The primary election is scheduled to take place on Aug. 4. The discussion is followed by a brief update on the measures Michigan has taken to respond to Covid-19 and a talk by Washtenaw County trial court chief judge Carole Kuhnke on the county's court system. 9:30 a.m.-noon, Zoom.US/j/685692609, Webinar ID 685-692-609. 883-8250. WashtenawDems.org

★**"Spring Color Fling":** Hudson Mills Metropark Young Outdoor Explorers. All invited to walk along a 1-mile nature trail with 5 stations set up for participants to douse themselves in colorful powder. T-shirts provided. 1-3 p.m. (start at any time), park activity center, 8801 North Territorial Rd., Dexter. \$6, preregistration required by May 1. \$10 vehicle entrance fee. 426-8211.

★**"The Yellow House":** In Good Company African American Book Club. All invited to join a discussion of Sarah Broom's 2019 memoir about growing up in New Orleans. 4 p.m., Nicola's Books, 2513 Jackson, Westgate. Free. 662-0600.

★**"Livestream Buddha's Birthday Celebration":** Zen Buddhist Temple. May 2 & 3 (different programs). The most festive occasion of the Buddhist year. May 2 (8 p.m.): "Burning Karma Cabaret." Variety show featuring musical & other performances by Zen Buddhist Temple members and other area Buddhist groups. May 3 (10 a.m.): "Bathing of Baby Buddha" with sweet tea. Also, at 8 p.m., chanting and lighting of traditional lotus lanterns, along with scriptural readings. 8 p.m. (Sat.) and 10 a.m. & 8 p.m. (Sun.), for meeting URL, call or visit Facebook.com/ZenBuddhistTemple. Free. 761-6520.

3 SUNDAY

★**Sunday Artisan Market.** Every Sun. Juried market of local handmade arts and crafts. Also, many artisans will take orders online or by phone. For list of vendors, visit SundayArtisanMarket.org. 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Farmers Market, Kerrytown. Free admission. 913-9622.

★**"Online Storytelling Concert: Living Room Live!":** Ann Arbor Storytellers' Guild. Guild members Beverly Black, Judy Schmidt, Lorelle Otis, Jeff Doyle, Jane Fink, and Laura Lee Layes tell stories about a variety of things. Emcee is Chelsea fiction writer & playwright Steve Daut. 2 p.m., preregistration required at bit.ly/onlinestoryconcert for meeting URL. Free, donations accepted. Mail@SteveDaut.com

★**Livestream Introductory Dharma Talk:** Jewel Heart Buddhist Center. Every Sun. Resident Jewel Heart spiritual advisor Demo Rinpoche discusses various aspects of Tibetan Buddhism. Followed by discussion. 11 a.m.-noon. For meeting URL, visit JewelHeart.org/#HomePage. Free. 994-3387.

★**"Collection Ensemble":** UMMA. Docent-led tour of the new installation in the museum entry space, which includes American, European, African, and Asian art. 2 p.m., UMMA Forum, 525 S. State. Free. 764-0395.

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evenings on **AADL.TV**

★ Denotes a free event

★ **Ann Arbor Go Club.** Every Thurs. & Sun. Players of all skill levels invited to play this challenging strategy board game. No partner necessary. Game materials provided. 6-11 p.m., Espresso Royale, 324 S. State. Free. umich.edu/~GoClub

★ **"Virtual Jams": Ann Arbor (Mostly) Acoustic Jam.** Every Sun. Musicians of all ability levels and ages invited to sing and play anything from classic rock, Motown, and blues to bluegrass, folk, and country. All acoustic instruments (strings, horns, and woodwinds) welcome. Led by veteran local musicians Bill Connors and Phil McMillion. 7-9 p.m., preregistration required at MeetUp.com (search "Mostly Acoustic Jam") for meeting URL. 973-7791.

5 TUESDAY

★ **"Actual Innocence in Michigan": U-M Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Online Edition.** U-M law professor David Moran discusses how the Michigan Innocence Clinic litigates cases where there is no DNA evidence to absolve wrongfully convicted persons. 10-11:30 a.m., meeting URL posted on OLLI-umich.org the day before event. Free. 998-9351.

★ **Voices in Harmony.** Every Tues. Women invited to join the weekly rehearsals of this local 50-member a cappella barbershop harmony chorus. 7-9:30 p.m., UAW Local 898 Hall, 8975 Textile Rd., Ypsilanti. Free to visitors (\$26 monthly dues for those who join). 612-7580.

★ **Eastside Weekly Euchre Tournament.** Every Tues. Open to all ages 18 & over. No partner needed. Cash prizes for 1st-3rd places. 7 p.m., Banfield's Bar & Grill, 3140 Packard. \$5. Kari.Thurman@gmail.com

★ **German Conversation.** Every Tues. & Thurs. All German speakers, native or non-native, invited for conversation with either or both of 2 long-running groups, the German Speakers Round Table (Tues.) and the Stammtisch (Thurs.). 8-10 p.m., Grizzly Peak Brewing Company, 120 W. Washington. Free. 453-2394 (Tues.) & 678-1017 (Thurs.).

6 WEDNESDAY

★ **Kerrytown Crafters.** Every Wed. All crocheters, knitters, spinners, weavers, felters, sewers, and other crafters invited to work on their projects. Questions welcome, help available. 7 p.m. or so, join [Facebook.com/Groups/KTCrafters](https://www.facebook.com/Groups/KTCrafters) for updates on virtual or in-person meeting location. Free. 926-8863.

★ **"Virtual Discovery Series: Photography": U-M Clements Library.** May 6, 13, 20, & 27. Clements graphics division staff present historic photos from the library's collection and discuss the evolution of early photography techniques. 4 p.m. Preregistration required at myumi.ch/mnREP for meeting URL. Free. 647-0864.

7 THURSDAY

★ **"Interest Groups and American Trade Politics": U-M Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Online Edition.** U-M political science professor Iain Osgood discusses contemporary American trade politics. 10-11:30 a.m., meeting URL posted on OLLI-umich.org the day before event. Free. 998-9351.

Ann Arbor Bridge Club. Every Wed. All invited to play ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge. If you plan to come without a partner, call in advance or arrive 20 minutes early. 7-11 p.m., Walden Hills clubhouse, 2114 Pauline east of Maple (park in the designated spaces in the lot on the north side of Pauline). \$6 per person. 623-8050.

★ **"Buddha in the City: Online": Jewel Heart.** Jewel Heart's resident spiritual advisor Demo Rinpoche discusses social harmony and acceptance of the diversity of race, religion, and ethnic groups, as well as the need to care for not just people but the environment as well. 7 p.m., preregistration required at bit.ly/bud-dhainthecity for meeting URL. Free. 994-3387.

8 FRIDAY

★ **"Local Leadership and Personal Action": U-M Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Online Edition.** National Wildlife Federation staff attorney Oday Salim and NWF Great Lakes regional director Michael Shriberg discuss what local governments and individ-

galleries

Exhibits this month:

All exhibits online except for UMMA.

U-M Clements Library, bit.ly/clements-lib. Multiple online exhibits about early American history, featuring digitized documents from the Clements collection.

Gutman Gallery, Facebook.com/GutmanGallery. *Fleur*. Online exhibit of works in various media by members of the Guild of Artists & Artisans, all depicting spring & nature.

U-M Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, bit.ly/kelsey-library. Digitized versions of past exhibits. Also, the new exhibit *Randal Stegmeyer: Exposing the Past*, a collection of Stegmeyer's photos of Kelsey Museum artifacts.

U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, bit.ly/shakespeare-arb. *Magic Among the Trees: A Celebration of Shakespeare in the Arb's Productions of "A Midsummer Night's Dream"* (Mar. 14–May 24). Video tour of this photo retrospective.

U-M Museum of Art (UMMA), 525 S. State. *Post No Bills: Burhan Doğançay's Archive of Urban Protest* (May 23–Aug. 9). Abstract multimedia collages made of torn posters, chipped paint, and other found materials by this Turkish modernist artist. UMMA is currently closed. Listed in case it is able to reopen in May.

U-M Libraries, lib.umich.edu/online-exhibits. Digitized materials from library collections, featuring everything from children's books to illustrations of 19th-century fashion.

uals can do to mitigate and adapt to climate change. 10–11:30 a.m., meeting URL posted on OLLI-umich.org the day before event. Free. 998–9351.

2020 Plant Sale: Project Grow Community Gardens. May 8 & 9. Sale of hard-to-find heirloom plants, including 75 varieties of tomatoes, 23 varieties of peppers, and 2 varieties of basil. Lisianthus (also known prairie gentian) and sweet pea are also available. Bring your own flats. The sale is arranged to allow for shoppers to remain at least 6 feet apart from one other. 4–8 p.m. (Fri.) & 10 a.m.–1 p.m. (Sat.), 6633 Stony Creek Rd., Ypsilanti. \$3 per plant, checks or exact cash change only. Info@ProjectGrowGardens.org

9 SATURDAY

Annual International Migratory Bird Count: Washtenaw Audubon Society. All invited—from novices to experienced birders—to help take a census of birds in Washtenaw County. Groups of volunteers are assigned specific areas within the county to count; feeder watchers also invited. Part of a 24-hour worldwide snapshot of populations of resident and migrant birds. All day, throughout Washtenaw County. Free. To volunteer or for information, visit WashtenawAudubon.org.

Volunteer Stewardship Workday: Ann Arbor Natural Area Preservation Division. May 9, 10, 17, 23, & 30. All invited to help maintain natural areas in various city parks and remove invasive species. Wear long pants and closed-toe shoes; tools, snacks, & know-how provided. Minors must be accompanied by an adult or obtain a release form in advance. May 9 (9 a.m.–noon): **Lakewood Nature Area**. Meet at Lakewood Elementary School parking lot off Gralake Ave. May 9 (1–4 p.m.): **Dolph Nature Area**. Meet at the parking lot off of Wagner Rd. May 10 (1–4 p.m.): **White Oak Park**. Meet at the park entrance on White Oak Dr. May 17 (9 a.m.–noon): **Fuller Park**. Meet at the Island Park parking lot at the end of Island Dr. May 23 (9 a.m.–noon): **Scarlett Mitchell Nature Area**. Meet in the Scarlett Middle School parking lot off Lorraine St. May 30 (1–4 p.m.): **Mary Beth Doyle Nature Area**. Meet at the parking lot at the end of Birch Hollow Dr. Various times & locations. For updates, visit a2gov.org/NAEvents. Free. 794–6627.

"Mother's Day: Wildflower Walk and Brunch": Hudson Mills Metropark Interpretive Nature Programs. Park interpreters lead a hike through the park to look for spring wildflowers. Preceded by brunch. 9–11 a.m., park activity center, 8801 North Territorial Rd., Dexter. \$12 (kids, \$9), preregistration required by May 1. \$10 vehicle entrance fee. 426–8211.

"Virtual Parks & Crafts": Ecology Center of Ann Arbor. May 9 & 30. All invited to make simple themed crafts at home followed by an individual activity. Led by Ecology Center education director Katy Adams and education program coordinator Mackenzie Munro. May 9: "Curbside Rules." Make a recycling reminder magnet and pick up neighborhood litter. May 30: "Paper Recycling." Make recycled paper Mother's Day cards and go on a city parks scavenger hunt. 10 a.m., bit.ly/aeecologycenter. Free. 369–9277, mmunro@EcoCenter.org

Native Plant Sale: Hudson Mills Metropark. May 9 & 10. Native flowers, grasses, trees, and shrubs, all with Michigan native genotypes. Also, guided

wildflower walks throughout the day led by park interpreters. 10 a.m.–4 p.m., park activity center, 8801 North Territorial Rd., Dexter. Free admission, \$10 vehicle entrance fee. 426–8211.

"Stewardship Saturday": Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission. All invited to help remove invasive plants. Wear long pants & closed-toe shoes. 1–4 p.m., County Farm Park, meet at the Medford Rd. Pavilion. Free. 971–6337.

10 SUNDAY (MOTHER'S DAY)

La'Ron Williams Livestream: First Presbyterian Church New Creation: Green Faith Rising. This nationally acclaimed veteran local storyteller reads stories TBA about the Earth and its nature. 2 p.m., bit.ly/motherearthstories. Free. 662–4466.

"Reflections: An Ordinary Day": UMMA. Docent-led tour of the current exhibit of Inuit art, which includes mid-century to contemporary prints, drawings, and sculptures that portray daily life in the Arctic. 2 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State. Free. 764–0395.

"Artist Reflections: Witnessing as an Artistic Act": UMMA. Talk by Courtney McClellan, whose installation *Witness Lab* is currently on display at

UMMA. 3 p.m., UMMA. Free, preregistration required at umma.umich.edu. 764–0395.

Contact Improv. May 10 & 24. All invited to try this interactive, free-form dance style led by Cara Nicole Graninger. This month's special non-contact session includes no physical contact (all participants maintain 6 feet of distance from others), featuring solo explorations, ensemble improvisations, and dancing. Followed by discussion. 3–5 p.m., *Spiral Studio*, 124 W. Summit, ste. F. \$5–\$10, or pay what you can. Call (313) 585–2598 or visit Facebook.com/a2detroit.ci to confirm.

11 MONDAY

"Michigan's Civil War Citizen-General Alpheus S. Williams": Ann Arbor Civil War Round Table. Michigan Civil War Association cofounder Jack Dempsey discusses his 2019 book about this Civil War general. 7 p.m., St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Administrative Bldg. rm. 2B45, 5305 Elliott Dr. Free. (517) 750–2741.

Virtual Scandinavian Music Jam. Bruce Sagan and Brad Battey lead an acoustic jam session devoted to traditional music from Sweden and Norway. All instruments welcome, no experience necessary. 7:30–9:30 p.m. Email bsagan@msu.edu for meeting URL. Free. (908) 721–2599.

12 TUESDAY

"Virtual Play Reading Club": The Brass Tacks Ensemble. May 12 & 19. All invited to join members of this local ensemble to read a part in a play TBA. Listeners welcome. 6:30 p.m., visit Facebook.com/TheBrassTacksEnsemble for meeting URL. Free. BTEpublicity.com

"Virtual Pub Sing": Ann Arbor Morris. Local Morris dancers lead an evening of rousing choruses, drinking songs, sea shanties, and English folk songs. This is a participatory event. 7–10 p.m. Email bsagan@msu.edu for meeting URL. Free.

"Bluegrass Jam Circle": Ann Arbor Senior Center. May 12 & 26. All musicians invited to bring their acoustic instruments to play bluegrass-style music. Vocalists welcome, too. 7–9 p.m., Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin Ave. \$5. Visit a2bluGrass.com to confirm.

"Inheritors of the Earth: How Nature Is Thriving in an Age of Extinction": Sierra Club Virtual

Book Club. All invited to discuss this book by University of York (UK) entomologist Chris D. Thomas. 7:30 p.m., email nShiffler@comcast.net for meeting URL. Free. 971–1157.

13 WEDNESDAY

"Evenings with Aaron: Livestream": Deep Spring Discussion Center. All invited to discuss their metaphysical questions with others with similar interests. The evening is led by Aaron, a "being of light" channeled by Barbara Brodsky, who offers a talk on a variety of spiritual practices. 7 p.m. \$10–\$30 suggested donation, preregistration required at DeepSpring.org/Evenings-With-Aaron-Winter-Spring-2020 for meeting URL. Info@DeepSpring.org

"An Evening of Poetry and Written Word over Zoom": Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room. All invited to read and discuss poetry or short fiction. Have your original work ready to share, if you wish. 7 p.m., email cwPoetryCircle@gmail.com to preregister for meeting URL. Free.

"Songwriters in the Round": On the Tracks Singer-Songwriter Showcase. Performances by veteran folk-rocker Scott Fab, Detroit pop-folk singer-songwriter Audra Kubat, sultry-voiced country-rocker Julianne Ankley, and David Rossiter, frontman of the classy local alt-country ensemble Hoodang. 7–9 p.m. (doors open at 6:30 p.m.), Chelsea Depot, 12 Jackson, Chelsea or online; for status updates, check OnTheTracksChelsea.com. \$15 suggested donation. 330–5226.

"Manoomin: The Story of Wild Rice in Michigan": History Readers. All invited to join a discussion, led by local historian Steve Thorp, of Barbara Barton's 2018 book, which examines how clashes between the capitalist culture of early European settlers and the spiritual culture of the Anishinaabe people affected wild rice production. 7:30–9 p.m., Motte & Bailey Booksellers, 212 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 484–3613.

14 THURSDAY

"A View of the Global Auto Industry from Michigan": U-M Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Online Edition. Talk by Center for Automotive Research vice president of research Kristin Diczek. 10–11:30 a.m., meeting URL posted on OLLI-umich.org the day before event. Free. 998–9351.

alternative activities

Please reference our daily calendar in print or online at AnnArborObserver.com for scheduled livestream events.

Music

- Free and paid **livestream performances** from many local musicians. Consult your favorite musician's social media pages for more information.
- Kerrytown Concert House shares video clips of featured regular artists in its **Joyful Music for Uncertain Times** series, and posts recorded videos of past live performances in its **Live @ The 415** series. KerrytownConcertHouse.com
- UMMA's **"Sight and Sound"** series features music composed by U-M music students, inspired by works of art in the museum. Listen at umma.umich.edu/MusicLabels.

Theater, Opera, and Dance

The University Musical Society is shut down, but some of the organizations whose live broadcasts it has been bringing to town are rebroadcasting their shows for free online.

- The **Metropolitan Opera** offers nightly full-length productions TBA. 7:30 p.m.–6:30 p.m. every day or so (each production is available for a period of 23 hrs). MetOpera.org/User-Information/Nightly-Met-Opera-Streams
- The **National Theatre (London)** offers weekly full-length plays TBA. 3 p.m., every Fri. (each production is available for a period of 1 week). YouTube.com/Channel/UCUDq1XzCY0NIOYVjvEMQjw

Family & Kids Stuff

- U-M Museum of Natural History's Museum@Home** web page features science-related programs. bit.ly/michmuseumathome
- Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum and Leslie Science & Nature Center's STEM at Home** web page includes activities, crafts, videos, and more. AAHOM.org/Experience/Programs/Type/Stem-At-Home

- 826 Michigan's virtual writing challenge** includes quirky weekly topics, as well as the opportunity to get feedback on your stories and have your final version read to a virtual audience. For more information and to participate, visit Facebook.com/826Michigan or 826michigan.org/Dr-Blotchs-Writing-Challenge.

- AADL's DIY crafting videos**. AADL.org/CreativeBug
- AADL's regularly updated **puzzle-based online kids game** Bummer Game. Play.AADL.org
- AADL's livestream library **storytimes**. AADL.tv
- The **Ann Arbor Art Center** offers craft ideas, printable art games, prerecorded drawing lessons, and more. New material every Tuesday. AnnArborArtCenter.org/Art-Resources
- Virtual art classes** for kids age 5–11. New videos every Tuesday. Doodles-Academy.org/Doodles-At-Home

Reading & Listening Material

- U-M Art School's popular **Penny Stamps Speaker Series** has both prerecorded and livestream lectures by artists from around the world. Stamps.umich.edu/Stamps
- The AADL's catalog of **eBooks & audiobooks** is available at AADL.org/Catalog/eBooks
- Literati Bookstore's** digital events series features live interviews with authors & poets and a book club. Full schedule at LiteratiBookstore.com

Films

- Burnout Film Society** offers at-home viewing suggestions, including schlock classics and forgotten gems. Facebook.com/8BallMovieNight
- Imagine Entertainment** offers select new releases for rent. Imagine-Entertainment.com/Virtual-Cinema
- The **Michigan & State Theaters** continually update a list of movie suggestions, featuring live **virtual watch parties**. MichTheater.org/Screenings

Nature

Select Ann Arbor, U-M, Washtenaw County, and Michigan parks and trails are open from dawn to dusk. Usage is limited to activities that do not involve direct contact with others. Note: Park facilities are closed.

- City of Ann Arbor parks, trails, & nature areas include **Bird Hills** and **Kuebler Langford** nature area (650 Beechwood Dr.), **Barton** nature area (W. Huron River Dr.), **Cedar Bend** nature area (1495 Cedar Bend Dr.), **Fuller** park (1519 Fuller Rd.), **Furstenberg** nature area, **Parker Mill** county park (4650 Geddes Rd.), **Cobblestone Farm** (2781 Packard St.), and others. Full list of locations at a2gov.org.
- U-M nature areas include **Matthaei Botanical Gardens** (1800 N. Dixboro Rd.), **Nichols Arboretum** (1610 Washington Hts.), **Saginaw Forest** (3900 W. Liberty), and **Stinchfield Woods** (9401 Stinchfield Woods Rd., Pinckney).
- Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy's properties include the **Conservancy Farm** (8383 Vreeland Rd.), **Jack R. Smiley Nature Preserve** (3040 N. Prospect Rd.), **LeFurge Woods Nature Preserve** (2384 N. Prospect Rd.), and **Springhill Nature Preserve** (3260 Berry Rd.).
- Pittsfield Preserve** (south side of Textile Rd., west of Platt Rd.)
- Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation nature preserves include **Baker Woods Preserve** (11914 Trinkle Rd., Dexter), **County Farm Park** (2230 Platt Rd.), **Fox Science Preserve** (2228 Peters Rd.), and **Scio Woods Preserve** (4000 Scio Church Rd.). Full list of open locations at washtenaw.org/288/Parks-Recreation.

The Lucy Ann Lance Show



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A SLICE OF HISTORY IN OUR BACKYARD:

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★ Denotes a free event

★“Virtual Singing for Comfort”: Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth. All invited to join a sing-along of soothing songs that are easy to learn. No experience necessary. 7–8:30 p.m., visit InterfaithSpirit.org or call 646-7405 for meeting URL. Free.

16 SATURDAY

★“Virtual Walk & Wag & Run”: Humane Society of Huron Valley Benefit. This annual 1-mile walk, held virtually this year, is a fundraiser for the Humane Society. Walk on your own or with a four-legged friend, then share to the HSHV Facebook page. All day, Facebook.com/HumaneSocietyHuronValley. \$55 suggested fundraising minimum. Preregistration at hshv.org/walkandwag. 662-5585.

Ann Arbor Antiques Market. May 16 & 17. Large show and sale of antiques in various styles from mid-century to industrial design to folk art and more. Deliveries available. Concessions. 8 a.m.–4 p.m. (Sat.) & 10 a.m.–4 p.m. (Sun.), Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. \$6 (age 12 & under with adult, free). 678-0173, AnnArborAntiquesMarket@gmail.com

★“Planting Your Vegetable Garden” Project Grow. Project Grow gardeners Joet Reoma and Royer Held lead a virtual discussion about garden layout, selecting vegetables to grow, deciding where and how to plant them, and more. 10 a.m.–noon, preregistration required at a2tix.com for meeting URL. \$5.

★“Online Meeting Tools”: MacTechnics. Fred Seitz, MacTechnics VP of Education, leads a video conference about communication tools such as Zoom and Slack. 11 a.m.–1 p.m. Email Contact@MacTechnics.org for meeting URL. Free. MacTechnics.org

★Butterfly Survey Kickoff & Training: Ann Arbor Natural Area Preservation. A chance to learn about the city’s upcoming annual survey of the area butterflies. No experience necessary. 1:30–4 p.m., NAP Office, 3875 E. Huron River Dr. Free, preregistration required by May 14 (space limited). NAP@a2gov.org, 794-6627.

★Nadim Azzam: UMMA Pop Up. Performance by this local singer-songwriter whose music blends acoustic blues, pop, & hip-hop. 3 p.m., UMMA. Free. 764-0395.

17 SUNDAY

★“Spring Bike”: Hudson Mills Metropark Interpretive Nature Programs. All age 12 & up invited for a leisurely pedal with stops to enjoy the scenery. Bring your own bike, or rent one (\$20 while supplies last) from Hudson Mills. 9–11 a.m., park activity center, 8801 North Territorial Rd., Dexter. \$6, preregistration required by May 16. \$10 vehicle entrance fee. 426-8211.

★Sharon Mills Tour: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission. May 17 & 31. All invited to tour this park on the River Raisin that features an operational hydroelectric generator, a beautiful multicolored stone house, a wooden mill, a



WENDY BAUER

B at Home Housebound boogie

Spring is here, but this is the season of GoFundMe: The web is alive with a chorus of pleas to support every venue, arts organization, and independently owned business that we love and don’t want to lose. So far it’s been rough. UMS canceled more than a dozen major events, the Ann Arbor Film Festival was forced to go completely online, and then came the news that Edgefest, the internationally acclaimed symposium of free jazz and modern improvised music, had been canceled. Late at night when all is still, I hear the bittersweet song of Abbey Lincoln: “The world is falling down. Hold my hand.”

Our culture is a composite living entity, the collective pulse of our people. Adaptability is how we evolve and survive. Musicians of every persuasion have taken to performing online. On March 18, piano man Mark “Mr. B” Braun and master percussionist Pete Siers inaugurated a series of Facebook webcasts “Live from the B Hive” in B’s living room. The program was dedicated to Chicago blues legend Jimmy Yancey, who long ago inspired young B to devote his life to the great African American piano tradition. At one point, Siers brought out a diminutive washboard mounted on a music stand and scraped on through the “How Long Blues.” Subsequent honorees were Boogie Woogie Red, Roosevelt Sykes and Blind John Davis, old masters who played the Blind Pig when

it was a funky little blues club with an upright piano in the basement.

“The thing about musicians is, we love and need to do what we do, we love and need to share it with other people,” says B. “This is the only way we can do it right now. This is all we have anymore. There’s nowhere else we can go to play.”

With Siers staying at home in compliance with Governor Whitmer’s order, B continues the weekday 5:30 gigs by himself, playing old favorites and works in progress, speaking kindly to devoted fans who generate a stream of appreciative online comments. People drop off food and leave tips via PayPal. On what he calls “Philanthropic Fridays,” B raises funds for worthy causes; one week, a portion of the proceeds went to the Detroit Street Filling Station to help Phillis Engelbert provide free meals for displaced service industry and Kerrytown shop workers.

Like Engelbert, Mr. B is a devout hands-on humanitarian. When he started in on Jay McShann’s “Hold ’Em Hootie”—full speed ahead like a friendly locomotive—I could feel the piano thunder shaking the floorboards as a great seismic wave of boogie-woogie came pouring down the Internet stream, roaring through the little cable plugged into my laptop computer, up through the earbuds, sending me as if I were sitting across the room getting it live and in person.

Mr. B’s “Live from the B Hive” show is streamed every weekday at 5:30 p.m. at Facebook.com/MrBmarkLincolnBraun.

—arwulf arwulf

kids calendar (age 12 & under)

May 2 (3–3:40 p.m.): “Strum & Drum Online”: Oz’s Music Environment. Families invited to sing and make music on a variety of instruments, including anything with strings, drums, pots & pans, and other noise makers. Free, preregistration required at bit.ly/ozstrumanddrum for meeting URL. 662-8283.

May 2 (5–9 p.m.): “Family Mew-Vie Night”: Tiny Lions. Screening of the 2017 animation *Ferdinand*. Also, snuggles with adoptable cats. Popcorn, juice, and water. Kids must be accompanied by an adult (at least 1 for every 3 kids). Bring pillows, sleeping bags, and blankets, if you wish. This event usually sells out. *Tiny Lions Lounge & Adoption Center*, 5245 Jackson, ste. A1. \$10 in advance at TinyLions.org/MewvieNights. HSHV.org

May 3 (10–11:30 a.m.): “Junior Naturalist: Secrets of a Vernal Pool”: Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission. WCPARC naturalist Elle Bogle leads kids on a hike to look for & learn about these spring meltwater pools. Also, a chance to find tiny creatures and look at

them under a microscope. Wear mud boots. *Independence Lake County Park*, 3200 Jennings, Dexter. Free (\$6 vehicle entry fee), preregistration required at ParksOnline.eWashtenaw.org. 971-6337.

May 8 (5–9 p.m.): “Pets & Pajamas Movie Night”: Humane Society of Huron Valley. Kids ages 5–11 invited to watch the 2001 animated comedy *Shrek*. Also, crafts and a chance to interact with adoptable pets. Pizza dinner. Wear pajamas and bring a sleeping bag and pillow. 3100 Cherry Hill Rd. \$35 (\$15 for each additional sibling), preregistration required at HSHV.org

May 9 (10:30–11:30 a.m.): “Nature Explorers: Water in Our World”: Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission. Naturalist Kelsey Dehring leads kids age 5 & 6 on a hike to look for water in nature. *Independence Lake County Park*, 3200 Jennings, Dexter. Free (\$6 vehicle entry fee), preregistration required at ParksOnline.eWashtenaw.org. 971-6337.

May 16 (4–5 p.m.): Virtual Kids Open Stage: Oz’s Music Environment. All kids invited to tell a joke, sing or play a song, or perform other acts to showcase their talents. Spectators welcome. Free, preregistration required on bit.ly/ozkidsopenstage for meeting URL. 662-8283.

May 21 (10–11 a.m.): “Preschool Hike: Eggcellent Birds!”: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission. Shawn Severance leads a hike for ages 2–4 (with caregiver) to look for bird nests. *County Farm Park Pollinator Garden*. Free, preregistration required at ParksOnline.eWashtenaw.org. 971-6337.

May 30 (10–11 a.m.): “Going Buggy”: Hudson Mills Metropark Young Outdoor Explorers. All ages 3–6 invited to explore what makes an insect an insect. Led by naturalist Kim Sherwin. Meet at the park activity center, 8801 North Territorial Rd., Dexter. \$5, preregistration required. \$10 vehicle entrance fee. 426-8211.

former winery, and large gardens. 1-5 p.m., Sharon Mills Park, 5701 Sharon Hollow Rd., Manchester. Free. 971-6337.

★“Cullen Washington Jr.: The Public Square”: UMMA. Docent-led tour of this exhibit of large-scale, abstract collages that explore the importance of public spaces. 2 p.m., UMMA Forum, 525 S. State. Free. 764-0395.

18 MONDAY

★Monthly Meeting: Embroiderers' Guild of America. Stitchers of all abilities and interests are invited to work on their own stitching projects, socialize, and learn about guild activities. 7 p.m., call 330-5724 for meeting location. Free to visitors (\$52 annual dues). 994-4385.

★Ann Arbor Stamp Club. Auction of U.S. and foreign stamps & other collector supplies. 7:30 p.m., Salvation Army, 100 Arbana (park & enter at rear of bldg.). Free admission. 761-5859.

19 TUESDAY

★“Greek to Me: Adventures of the Comma Queen”: U-M Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Online Edition. New Yorker copy editor & bestselling writer Mary Norris discusses her recent book about her decades-long obsession with Greece. New York Times reporter Vivian Gornick calls it “one of the most satisfying accounts of a great passion that I have ever read.” 10-11:30 a.m., meeting URL posted on OLLI-umich.org the day before event. Free. 998-9351.

★Polka Jam Session. All accordion players and other musicians invited to play polkas, waltzes, and other ethnic and old-time music. 7-9 p.m., American Legion Post 268, 44 Wabash St., Milan. Free. 529-3903.

The Moth StorySLAM: Michigan Radio. Open mic storytelling competition sponsored by The Moth, the NYC-based nonprofit storytelling organization that also produces a weekly public radio show. Ten storytellers are selected at random from among those who sign up to tell a 3-5 minute story on “Do-Over” and judged by a 3-person team recruited from the audience. Monthly winners compete in a semiannual Grand Slam. Seating limited; arrive early. 7:30-9 p.m. (doors open and sign-up begins at 6:30 p.m.), The Blind Pig, 208 S. First. Tickets \$15 general admission in advance only, beginning a week before each event at TheMoth.org. 764-5118.

20 WEDNESDAY

★“Virtual Brews & Views”: League of Women Voters. Lansing-based lawyer Patrick Levine Rose discusses U.S. Postal Service funding, its impact on the 2020 presidential election, and the Federal stimulus package. Q&A. 7-8:30 p.m., email League@lwvAnnArbor.org for meeting URL. Free. 272-3634.

21 THURSDAY

★“Food Security and the Role of Regional Trade in Africa”: U-M Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Online Edition. Talk by MSU food & resource economics professor Titus Awokuse. 10-11:30 a.m., meeting URL posted on OLLI-umich.org the day before event. Free. 998-9351.

22 FRIDAY

★“New Moon Night Hike”: Hudson Mills Metropolitan Interpretive Nature Programs. All age 10 & up invited to search for wildlife along nature trails with naturalist Kim Sherwin. Dress for the weather. 8-10 p.m., park activity center, 8801 North Territorial Rd., Dexter. \$5, preregistration required by May 21. \$10 vehicle entrance fee. 426-8211.

23 SATURDAY

★“Designing a Medicine Garden”: Gaia Center for Herbal Studies. Herbalist Mary Light shows how to design a garden and discusses medicinal herbs, resources, and growing strategies. Followed at 11:30 a.m. by a massage training demo by Light. 9:30-11 a.m., 6276 Jackson Rd., ste. B. \$12. 769-7794.

24 SUNDAY

★“Exploring a Prairie Fen”: Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission. A WCPARC naturalist leads a hike through one of these wetland habitats. Wear waterproof boots. 2-4 p.m., Park Lyndon North, 18801 N. Territorial, Chelsea. Free. 971-6337.

★“Abstraction, Color, and Politics in the Early 1970s”: UMMA. Docent-led tour of the current exhibit of large-scale abstract works by sculptors Louise Nevelson and Al Loving and painters Helen Frankenthaler, Joan Mitchell, and Sam Gilliam. 2 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State. Free. 764-0395.

26 TUESDAY

★Skazat! Poetry Series Remote Edition. Reading by local poet Ellen Stone, whose new collection, *What Is in the Blood*, features poetry about her childhood in the Appalachian Mountains and her relationship with her bipolar mother. Preceded by an open mic. 7-8:30 p.m., visit Facebook.com/Skazat for meeting URL. Free. 994-6663.

27 WEDNESDAY

★“An Evening of Poetry and Written Word”: Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room. Reading by U-M English professor emeritus Richard Tillinghast, whose latest collection of essays, *Journeys into the Mind of the World*, examines the unique historical, cultural, artistic, religious, and ethnic dimensions of Ireland, England, India, the Middle East, Tennessee, and Hawaii. 7 p.m., email cwPoetryCircle@gmail.com to preregister for meeting URL. Free.

29 FRIDAY

★Bird Walk: Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation. City ornithologist Juliet Berger leads a walk through Gallup Park and Furstenberg Nature Area to look for nesting Baltimore Orioles. Bring binoculars, if you have them. 6-8 p.m., meet at Gallup Park Canoe Livery, 3000 Fuller Rd. Free. 794-6627.

30 SATURDAY

★“Cinderella”: Academy of Russian Classical Ballet. This local dance school presents a ballet rendition of this classic fairytale. Featuring ballet students of all ages from throughout southeast Michigan. 2 p.m., Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, 911 North University. Tickets \$23 in advance at TutuTix.com/ARCB, and (if available) at the door. 826-8181.

31 SUNDAY

★“The Problem of Thor Bridge”: The Arcadia Mixture Sherlock Holmes Club. All invited to discuss Arthur Conan Doyle's 1922 story in which Holmes and Watson pit their talents against a formidable Latin temperament, a confident self-made American millionaire. 2 p.m., Classic Cup Café, 4389 Jackson. Free. rpl@umich.edu.

★“River Mindfulness Hike”: Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission. Slow-paced, contemplative hike near the Huron River, led by WCPARC naturalist Elle Bogle and Mindful City Ann Arbor cofounder Julie Woodward. 4-5:30 p.m., Burns-Stokes Preserve, Zeeb at the Huron River just south of Huron River Dr., Dexter. Free. 971-6337.

★“Pops Concert: Broadway Bard”: Vocal Arts Ensemble Fundraiser. Ben Cohen directs this local 24-voice chamber choir in a program of Shakespeare-inspired music. Featuring jazz arrangements, choral settings, and Elizabethan-era songs, plus songs from *West Side Story*, *The Boys from Syracuse*, *Kiss Me Kate*, and more. 4 p.m., the Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets \$30 (students, \$20) in advance at TheArk.org & VocalArtsAnnArbor.org. Preregistration recommended; limited tickets available at the door. 761-1818.

Music at Nightspots

by John Hinchey & James M. Manheim

Listings are based on information available at press time. Up-to-date schedules are posted at AnnArborObserver.com.

Note: Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, most venues have not even seen fit to prepare a tentative schedule. However, a large variety of local music is offered through livestreaming, either via the websites of regular music venues (see listings below) or on artists' individual Facebook pages, including those of Mark Braun (aka Mr. B), Chris Buhalls, Peter Madcat Ruth, and others. You can find much of this music collected at the public Facebook group Ann Arbor Loves Live Music! Facebook.com/groups/162682488863

Ann Arbor Marriott Ypsilanti Eagle Crest 1275 S. Huron, Ypsilanti 487-2000

The popular Local Brews & Local Blues music program has relocated from the former North Campus Holiday Inn to the Elizabeth Ann room adjacent to the bar in this Ypsilanti hotel. Sat. 8 p.m.-midnight. Cover, dancing. May 16: Chris Canas Band. Detroit blues band fronted by blues vocalist and virtuoso guitarist Canas.

The Ark 316 S. Main 761-1451

Michigan's leading showcase for American and international performers of all forms of traditional and roots music and contemporary songwriting. Shows almost every night at 8 p.m. Mon.-Sat., & 7:30 p.m. Sun., unless otherwise noted. Tickets are sold in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and TheArk.org, and at the door. Note: Check Facebook.com/pg/TheArkAnnArbor/ for virtual “Ark Family Room Series” shows, broadcast on Facebook Live. These online shows continue to be added; check AnnArborObserver.com or the Facebook page for updates.

May 1: The Accidentals: Ark Family Room Series (online). Wildly popular Traverse City folk group that got its start when Katie Larson, a sophomore cellist, and Savannah Buist, a junior violinist, were paired for a high school orchestra event. They were signed to the major Sony label in 2017 and look for all the world like emerging stars. Free; online donations accepted. May 10: Nora Jane Struthers: Ark Family Room Series (online). Nashville-based Americana singer-songwriter, a former high school English teacher whose story songs draw on old-time, bluegrass, and folk ballad traditions. Her album *Champion*, in the words of NPR, is “beautifully structured, recalling the best work of Struthers' elders, like Rosanne Cash and Nanci Griffith.” Struthers has a new album, *Bright Lights, Long Drives, First Words*. Free; online donations accepted. May 12: Jared Deck: Ark Family Room Series (online). Deck is a young alt-country Americana singer-songwriter from Oklahoma with a working-class point of view whose influences range from Springsteen and John Mellencamp to Alejandro Escovedo and Tom Russell. His song “The American Dream” recently won first place in the annual Woody Guthrie Folk Festival Songwriting Competition. Free; online donations accepted. 8 p.m. May 21: Chicago Farmer: Ark Family Room Series (online). Chicago Farmer is the stage name of singer-songwriter Cody Diekhoff, a post-punk John Prine from a central Illinois farming family whose songs also draw inspiration from the work of Hank Williams and Woody Guthrie. New York Music Daily praises his CD *Backenforth, IL* for its “wryly aphoristic, darkly amusing country-folk songcraft.” Free; online donations accepted. May 22: The RFD Boys. Authentic bluegrass by these longtime local favorites who have appeared in numerous festivals and on the cover of *Bluegrass Unlimited* magazine. Their shows blend top-notch musicianship with funny between-songs dialogue. They have a new guitarist-mandolinist, Dan Roehrig, and they recently celebrated their 50th anniversary with a new album, *Still Delivering*. \$11 at the door only. May 28: Duo Duo. Multinational acoustic-Celtic quartet (two duos) featuring Michigan-born step dancer Nic Gareiss, Edinburgh harpist Maeve Gilchrist, cellist Nata-

lie Haas (the American musical partner of Scots veteran Alasdair Fraser), and Montreal acoustic guitarist Yann Falquet. They play as duos and as a quartet. \$20. May 29: Hawktail. Young progressive bluegrass quartet featuring former Crooked Still fiddler Brittany Haas, Punch Brothers bassist Paul Kowert, former David Rawlings Machine guitarist Jordan Tice, and mandolinist Dominick Leslie. They have a new album, *Formations*. \$20. May 30: The Kingston Trio. Emerging from the San Francisco North Beach club scene in the late 50s, the Kingston Trio were the ancestors of Peter, Paul & Mary, Bob Dylan, and everyone else who has ever treated folk music as a commercial category. After membership changes and a trademark lawsuit, the original members are gone, but the music and the couture remain. \$35.

Babs' Underground 213 S. Ashley 997-0800

This downtown lounge features occasional live music. No cover, no dancing. May 1: WEMU 5:01 Jazz Series. With a jazz ensemble led by local drummer Sean Dobbins.

The Blind Pig 208 S. First St. 996-8555

This local club features live music most Wed.-Sat. and occasional other nights, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. (unless otherwise noted). Also, occasional early shows, usually 7-10 p.m. Cover, dancing. Advance tickets sold at the 8 Ball Saloon (below the club) and at BlindPigMusic.com/calendar. May 1: Sebadoh. Influential veteran lo-fi indie rock band from western Massachusetts. Opener: Versus, a veteran NYC band that plays dark but catchy rock 'n' roll. \$22. 8:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m. May 20: Royce 5'9". All ages admitted. Veteran Detroit hip-hop rapper-songwriter, a frequent collaborator with Eminem. \$20-\$100. 8:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m. May 26: We Were Promised Jetpacks. Scottish quartet whose oversized guitar-propelled pop-rock has provoked comparisons to U2 and Big Country. \$20.

The Blue Llama 314 S. Main 531-6188

This new jazz club/restaurant features live music Wed.-Sat., 7-10/11 p.m., along with late shows Fri. & Sat. 11 p.m.-1 a.m. Doors open at 5 p.m. (early show) & 9 p.m. (late show) for ticketed shows. No cover except for ticketed shows, no dancing. Advance tickets available at BlueLlamaClub.com. May 8: The Curtis Brothers. New Jersey-based hard bop trio led by the sibling duo of pianist Zaccari Curtis and bassist Luques Curtis. With drummer Ralph Peterson. 7 & 9 p.m. \$20-\$40. May 23: Miles Okazaki's Trickster. This quartet is led by Okazaki, a Brooklyn-based jazz guitarist whose music is known for its densely constructed elegance. He is currently showcasing music from *Trickster*, his acclaimed 2017 album of funk- and blues-influenced originals that NYC Jazz Record praised for its “elaborate, internally rhyming forms.” 7 & 9 p.m.

Oz's Music Environment 1920 Packard 662-8283

This storefront next to Oz's music store features live music 1st & 4th Tues. and every Thurs. 7:30-9:30 p.m. Cover by donation, no dancing. For info about Zoom events, see Facebook.com/OzMusicDotCom. May 5: “Songwriters Open Mic.” Via Zoom at Meetup.com/Ozs-Music-Songwriters-Open-Mic. All songwriters invited. Hosted by Jim Novak. May 12: “Anything Goes Open Stage.” Via Zoom at Meetup.com/Ozs-Music-Songwriters-Open-Mic. All acoustic musicians invited. Hosted by Jim Novak.

Ypsi Alehouse 124 Pearl, #100, Ypsilanti 487-1555

This brewpub features live music Tues. & Thurs.-Sat. eve., times TBA, and Sun. 2-4 p.m. No cover, no dancing. Some regular Alehouse performers post videos on Facebook.com/YpsiAlehouse.

Classifieds

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The Classifieds deadline for the June issue is May 11.

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HIDAY FAMILY FARM
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HIDAY FAMILY FARM
Now taking bulk ground beef orders for August delivery. (517) 765-2268

Wanted

The Classifieds deadline for the June issue is May 11.

Electronics Research Engineer: research electro-thermal packaging technologies for power electronics & sensors for electrified vehicles in Ann Arbor, MI. Send resume to headquarters: Toyota (Attn: Dina Moore), Code: MI, 6565 Headquarters Dr., Plano, TX 75024

Miscellaneous

The Classifieds deadline for the June issue is May 11.

I SPY CONTEST
Can you identify the glimpse of Ann Arbor in the photo on p. 55? If you can, you could win a \$25 check made out to any business advertising in this issue. One winner will be drawn from all correct entries received by noon, May 11. No phone entries, please. Send your answer to: I Spy, Ann Arbor Observer, 2390 Winewood, AA 48103. Fax: 769-3375; email: backpage@aaobserver.com (put I Spy in the subject line).

FAKE AD CONTEST
Can you find the fake ad in this issue of the Observer? If you can, you could win a \$25 gift certificate to any business advertising in this issue! One winner will be drawn from all correct entries received by noon, May 11. No phone entries, please. Send your answer to: backpage@aaobserver.com or write to: 2390 Winewood, AA 48103.

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The Classifieds deadline for the June issue is May 11.

Need help shopping? I'd like to help. Around \$30.00 charge. Please call or text Ruth (734) 717-2170.

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Since 1976, the Observer has been a locally owned community resource. We want to continue to provide the Observer to all permanent Ann Arbor residents and chamber members in Washtenaw County. We are making every effort to keep costs in line and maintain our commitment to quality. **Please take a few minutes to confirm your FREE subscription.** Or become an Observer Friend! See page 50 for more information.

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Sincerely,

Patricia M. Garcia
Publisher



SPECIAL REQUEST

All new "Observer Friends" and FREE subscription confirmations received by **May 11** will be entered in a drawing for a **\$25 Gift Certificate** at your choice of any business advertising in the Observer.

☐ **Yes!** I am a resident of the Ann Arbor Public School District and I want to continue receiving the Ann Arbor Observer and City Guide free of charge. Enter me in the \$25 Gift Certificate drawing!

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MARKET UPDATE

May 2020

These are challenging times for all of us. The spread of the Coronavirus is impacting our community and local real estate market on a daily-changing basis. The challenges are certain to grow before they begin to lessen. So far, our real estate marketing is moving forward. My listings are still selling and my buyers are still searching for quality homes. I stay committed to serving our communities' real estate needs through it all. If you have questions or concerns please call me, 734-476-7100.

SELLERS - The value of your home is at its highest level since 2007. Demand for your home is at the highest level since 2004. But this market is far from "easy". The issues of pricing, managing multiple offers, and successfully appraising the home with the buyer's lender are more complex than ever. It takes an experienced agent with an effective strategy to successfully sell your home and get it closed. Please call me to discuss your situation today. 734-476-7100.

BUYERS - Word on the street is that there are no quality homes to buy. Somehow I manage to lead the county in closed buyer sales year to date. I have been successful in finding the best homes available for most of my buyers (not all, sorry). The process of home selection, offer strategy, and financing are a challenge. You need an experienced agent in your corner to find the right house and successfully close. Call me today to start your search. 734-476-7100.



ANN ARBOR HILLS - This 5-bedroom, 4 1/2-bath custom-built estate is one of the finest homes in Ann Arbor. The 2-acre setting is breathtaking. The grounds include extensive landscaping, incredible outdoor living patios, and the finest pool you will see. The home was built to the highest standard of design, materials, and craftsmanship. Highlights include gourmet kitchen with professional grade appliances, dramatic living spaces, luxury master suite, and finished walkout basement. Incredible! \$1,995,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



WOODLANDS OF GEDDES GLEN - Incredible 5-bedroom, 6 1/2-bath custom-built home overlooking Radrick Farms Golf Course. This home was built to the highest standards. The setting is special with great outdoor living spaces. Interior highlights include gourmet kitchen with Wolf/Sub-Zero appliances, two-story great room, luxury master bedroom suite with sitting area, two walk-in closets, spa-like baths, and finished walkout basement! \$1,795,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



ANN ARBOR HILLS - This classic 4-bedroom, 3 1/2-bath colonial rests on a gorgeous hilltop lot in a prime section of Ann Arbor Hills. You will love this setting with mature trees, large back yard, and patio. The interior is gorgeous! Highlights include all-hardwood floors, original trim, updated kitchen with painted maple cabinets and granite counters, living room with fireplace, sun room, den, master suite with remodeled master bath, 2nd bedroom suite, and finished basement. Angell Elementary. \$1,150,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



SALINE ESTATES - Incredible 6-bedroom, 4 1/2-bath home in one of the area's most popular neighborhoods. This setting is incredible - just minutes from schools and shopping. The lot features mature trees, large deck, patio, fire pit, and gorgeous inground swimming pool. The home is gorgeous inside with two-story family room, open concept kitchen with granite and stainless steel appliances, luxury master suite with incredible walk-in closet and spa-like bath, and finished walkout basement with rec room, 2 bedrooms, and bath. \$769,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



ARBORETUM - Very sharp 4-bedroom, 4 1/2-bath home on one of the best lots in this very popular neighborhood walking distance to Downtown Saline. You will love the setting of this home with a spacious backyard, large deck, and great landscaping. The interior sparkles with many recent updates. Features include two-story great room with fireplace, open concept kitchen with granite and stainless steel appliances, luxury first floor master suite, den, 3 bedrooms and 2 baths on the 2nd level, and finished walkout basement. \$529,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



SALINE SCHOOLS - This stately 4-bedroom, 4-bath, two 1/2-bath custom-built home is set on an incredible 7-acre parcel just minutes to Ann Arbor and all freeways. Highlights include manicured grounds with patio, covered bridge, inground pool, 60' x 100' pole barn, two-story great room with stone fireplace, incredible kitchen with professional appliances, luxury first floor master suite with spa like bath, and finished walkout basement with rec room, bar, exercise, and home theater. \$1,395,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



SALINE ESTATES - Custom-built 5-bedroom, 5 1/2-bath all-brick and stone home on a quiet cul-de-sac lot with panoramic views of common area and pond. This home was constructed to the highest standards seen in our area. Highlights include one of the nicest residential pools you will find, custom kitchen with granite and Viking/SubZero appliances, open concept family room, Solarium, luxury master suite with brand new bath, and finished walkout basement with 2nd kitchen, large rec room, and additional flex-use rooms. \$1,295,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



ANN ARBOR HILLS - This custom-built 5-bedroom, 4 1/2-bath colonial is a rare find in one of Ann Arbor's most sought after neighborhoods. Custom kitchen with professional grade appliances, open concept floor plan, family room with fireplace, all-hardwood flooring, dream master suite with vaulted ceilings and spa-like bath, great sized kids' bedrooms, and finished lower level with rec and exercise room, bedroom, and bath. \$1,295,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



NE ANN ARBOR - This 4-bedroom, 3 1/2-bath Frank Lloyd Wright-inspired contemporary home is a pure masterpiece of design and materials. Estate setting with 8-acres of the most beautiful land you will find. Includes extensive landscaping with a flowing stream, stone patio, and pond. The home highlights include soaring ceilings, dramatic slate fireplace, stone flooring, gourmet kitchen, luxury master suite, and finished walkout lower level. \$950,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



BROOKVIEW HIGHLANDS - Spectacular, custom-built 6-bedroom, 4 1/2-bath two-story on a quiet cul-de-sac in one of Saline's most desired neighborhoods. This home has it all. Gorgeous 1.2-acre lot with extensive landscaping, large patio, and pond. The interior is stunning including custom kitchen with granite and professional grade appliances, family room with fireplace, screen porch, sunroom, luxury master suite with sitting room, and finished basement. \$899,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



STONEBRIDGE - Custom-built 5-bedroom, 4 1/2-bath home with panoramic views of the #11 hole. This home is just stunning inside and out. The exterior features extensive landscaping, large deck, and screened porch. Interior highlights include family room with fieldstone fireplace, open concept kitchen with granite and high-end appliances, luxury master suite with sitting room and spa like bath, and finished walkout basement. \$799,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



CENTENNIAL PARK - This 4-bedroom, 4-bath, two 1/2-bath former builder's model home is loaded with custom features in one of Saline school's most popular neighborhoods. This home rests on one of the largest lots in the neighborhood with extensive landscaping, paver patio, and huge backyard. The interior highlights include two-story family room, cherry kitchen, sunroom, private den, luxury first floor master suite, bonus room, and finished basement. \$769,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

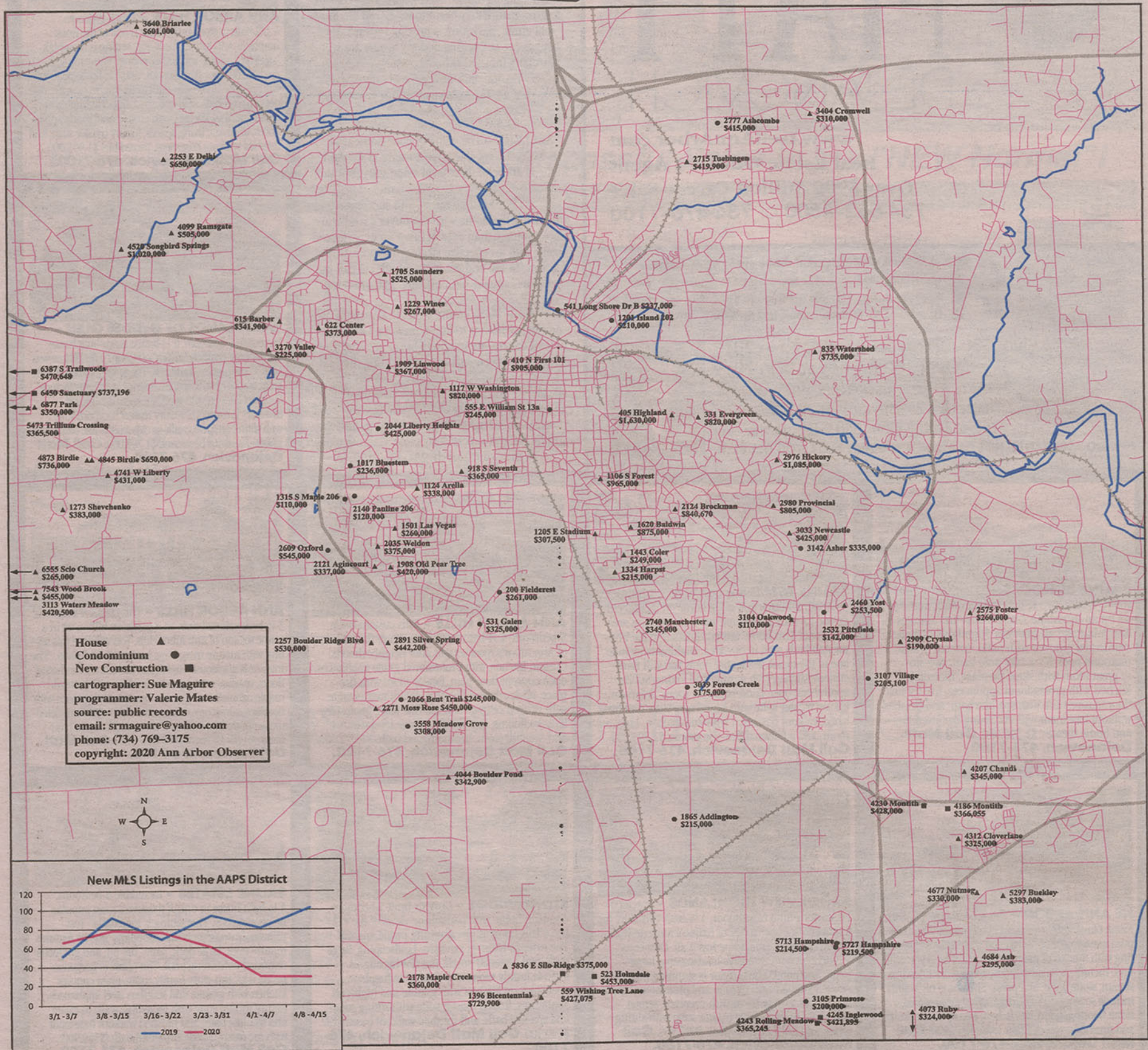


YORK MEADOWS - Incredible 6-bedroom, 4 1/2-bath colonial on a spacious 1.4-acre lot backing to common area. You will love this setting with panoramic pond views, extensive landscaping, large deck, and patio with fire pit. The interior is gorgeous. Highlights include two-story family room with fireplace, large cherry kitchen with granite and stainless steel appliances, luxury master suite with great bath and huge closet, and finished basement with bar, two rec spaces, bedroom, and bath. \$659,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



FOXFIRE - This 5-bedroom, 3 1/2-bath colonial is one of the finest homes you'll see in the popular NE Ann Arbor neighborhood. This home rests on a premium lot backing to a wooded common area. You will love the interior on this home! Highlights include all premium wood flooring throughout, two-story great room with fireplace, open concept kitchen with granite counters, luxury master suite, and finished walkout basement with rec room, bedroom, and bath. \$575,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

MARCH 2020 HOME SALES



At the beginning of March, things looked bright for the real estate market. Yes, inventory was still scarce, but sales were keeping pace with 2019. With interest rates low, it seemed like the biggest hurdle would be getting homes on the market. A new coronavirus had been gripping China, and the brave Wuhan doctor,

Li Wenliang, who tried to sound the alarm, had recently died. Still, it was only when Italy was overwhelmed with Covid-19 that what lay ahead for our own country was obvious.

By March 16, Ann Arbor schools were closing, the U-M was moving to online classes, bars and restaurants were struggling, and large gatherings banned. A week later, Governor Whitmer issued a stay-at-home order that limited travel for all but the most essential services. Real estate was not one of them. (See "Self-Unemployed," p. 31.)

This month's sparse map shows just 88 property transfers recorded within the Ann Arbor Public School District in March. That's just half the total in March 2019. Yet sales through the Ann Arbor Area Board of Realtors

Multi-Listing Service, as indicated by signed sales agreements, are almost unchanged.

The conflicting data likely reflect differences in timing and regulation. The Realtors' data captures the completion of transactions already in progress before the shutdown, including homes that had already been personally visited, and negotiations completed. And unlike real estate sales, financial institutions are considered essential services, so closings are still taking place.

The Realtors' numbers are now falling, too. From March 16 through April 15, closings fell 13 percent within Ann Arbor School District, and 23 percent for all sales through the local Multi-Listing Service.


Realtors are now showing properties via online slide shows, pre-recorded virtual tours, and sometimes live tours hosted by the

homeowners themselves. Home inspectors are considered essential workers, and in the latest revision of the stay-at-home order, a buyer can potentially accompany an inspector on a final walk-through of the property. Sales contracts may also include contingencies requiring a satisfactory personal viewing, and/or inspection when the restrictions lift.

A greater impact is being seen among new listings. In March as a whole, these decreased only 1 percent in the AAPS area, but 18 percent in the wider region served by the Ann Arbor board. And looking just at the post-shutdown period from March 16 to April 15, new listings plunged 44 percent in the school district, and 59 percent in the entire AAABOR area.

—Sue Maguire

A HEARTFELT
THANK YOU
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ESSENTIAL WORKERS
HELPING US ALL THROUGH THIS CHALLENGING TIME

A man and a woman are smiling and standing outdoors in front of a blurred background of trees. The man is on the left, wearing a dark blazer over a light blue shirt. The woman is on the right, wearing a white turtleneck sweater and a necklace.

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gratitude, we must
never forget that the
highest appreciation is
not to utter words but
to live by them."

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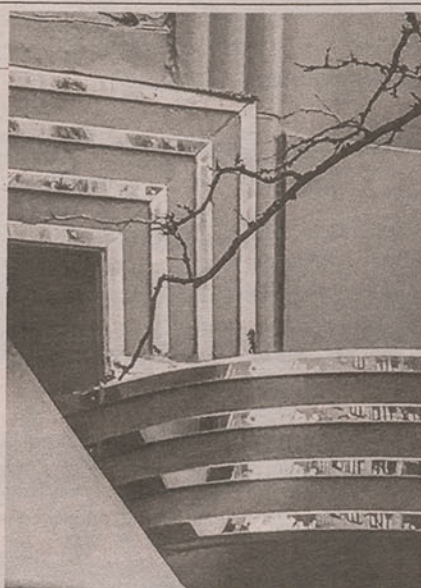
Back Page

I spy

by Sally Bjork

"What a clever clue," writes Barb Tester of April's feature. "Darling, isn't it?" adds Pam Gillespie, "refers to the Zwerdling-Darling block on E. Liberty." The "clue was too easy but ... it was fun finding it," says Orest Mykolenko. "I don't have an exact address," quips Tom Jameson, dubbing the search as "non-essential travel" in this Covid-19 environment.

The second floor of this 1915 "Beaux Arts building ... contains a decorative terra-cotta frame with elaborate" carving, continues Tester. "Dr. Darling had this building built for his practice on the second floor," Amy Remillard of Ypsi told us. "Dr. Darling was an active community member," writes Louisa Griffes. Among other things, he was involved "... in the building of the first St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital and served" as Ann Arbor's mayor from 1894-1895. "Thank you for highlighting [this] window," Griffes continues. "I have passed by ... many times, yet never took the time to notice its beauty!" Bob Maddox writes, "Thank you for urging us to take the time to observe the beautiful architecture around town. Too



Bell nearby

much of it is lost to development each year."

We received twenty entries correctly identifying the Darling Block. Our random drawing winner is David Karl who will enjoy his \$25 gift certificate at Cardamom when it reopens. (For an updated list of restaurants still operating, see "Shutdown Takeout" at AnnArborObserver.com.)

Speaking of the shutdown, we're using our spare time to complete *I Spy ... Ann Arbor Architecture, Vol. 1*. See our ad on p. 30 to preorder.

To enter this month's contest, use the image and clue above and send your answer to the address below.



fake ad

by Jay Forstner

"This month's Fake Ad is on page 29—for The Doug Henning Institute of Magical Consciousness," wrote Melodie Marske. "Well done rising to the challenge with the first letters of a very LONG last name in the Doug Henning quote."

Marske was one of 146 clever Fake Adders who spotted the ad. Sylvia Ruiz also commented on the degree of difficulty in hiding the name. "The surname of last month's winner, Lange-neckert, can be found in the first letter of each word in the Doug Henning quote," Ruiz wrote.

Matthew Hickey included a personal reminiscence. "I got to meet Doug in the

mid-70's at my ex-wife's house," Hickey wrote. "Her dad was a well-known magician who had a magic shop on William St. (next to the Students for a Democratic Society office), and a couple doors from my shop, Campus Barber & Beauty Salon, and she was a box jumper (lovely assistant) and a fire eater. It is because of Doug that I love close-up magic. There is no 'trick' to it, just skill. Three times he counted money into my hand and he ended up with more than I got. Wow, it was amazing."

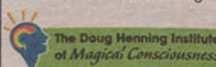
Kevin Gilson was chosen as our winner. He's chosen Common Grill for his gift certificate; according to their website, they hope to reopen in mid May.

We're also hoping to have *The Fake Ad Book* done in May. See our ad on p. 30 to preorder.

"Love Always Needs Gentle Exhortation. Nourish Each Child. Kiss Every Rainbow Today."

- Doug Henning

As a magician, author, and politician, Doug Henning always followed his dreams. Now you can make your dreams a reality. Online classes are now enrolling!



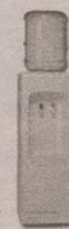
Visit www.dhmc.edu

To enter this month's contests, send email to backpage@aaobserver.com. Mail: 2390 Winewood, Ann Arbor, MI 48103. All correct entries received by noon on May 11th will be eligible for our random drawings. Winners receive \$25 gift certificates to any business advertising in this issue.

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THANKS!

We extend a sincere thank you
to our new Observer friends!

We appreciate your financial support.

Thanks also to readers who responded to our request
for **FREE** subscription confirmations.

Congratulations to the lucky winners of our April
drawing!

The following readers won a **\$25 gift certificate** to their choice
of any business advertising in the Observer.

April winners:
Linda G. & Nicole A.

If you would like to be entered in the May drawing for a \$25 gift
certificate to any business advertising in this issue, check out the
information on page 44, and submit your Observer Friend or Free
Subscription confirmation by May 11.

Thanks!
Observer Staff

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Events at a Glance

Daily Events listings begin on p. 43. Galleries:
p. 45. Alternative Activities: p. 45. Kids: p. 46.
Nightspots are on p. 47.

►Reviewed in this issue. See p. 43.

Vernacular Music

pop, rock, jazz, & traditional

- Pianist Mark “Mr. B” Braun livestream (jazz), weekdays
- Gemini livestream (folk), weekdays
- “Songwriters in the Round” (country-folk-rock), May 13

Comedy, Storytelling, & Performance Art

- Ann Arbor Storytellers’ Guild online concert, May 3
- Michigan Radio storySLAM, May 19

Festivals, Fairs, & Shows

- Buddha’s Birthday online celebration, May 2 & 3
- Heirloom plant sale, May 8 & 9

Lectures, Readings, & Forums

- Virtual historical photography series, every Wed.
- Automotive researcher Kristin Dzialek livestream, May 14
- Vegetable gardeners Joet Reoma & Royer Held livestream, May 16

- Comma Queen Mary Norris livestream, May 19
- League of Women Voters livestream, May 20
- MSU food & resource economics professor Titus Awokuse livestream, May 21
- Local poet Ellen Stone livestream, May 26
- Local essayist Richard Tillinghast livestream, May 27

Family & Kids’ Stuff

See our Kids Calendar, p. 42, for most kids events.

- Virtual Strum & Drum, May 2
- Virtual Parks & Crafts, May 9 & 30
- Humane Society of Huron Valley fundraiser Walk & Wag and Run, May 16
- Virtual Kids Open Stage, May 16

Miscellaneous

- Virtual (mostly) acoustic jam, every Sun.
- Migratory Bird Count, May 9
- Virtual Pub Sing, May 12
- Virtual Play Reading, May 12 & 19

“Only in Ann Arbor” Event of the Month

- La’Ron Williams livestreams Earth for Mother’s Day stories, May 10

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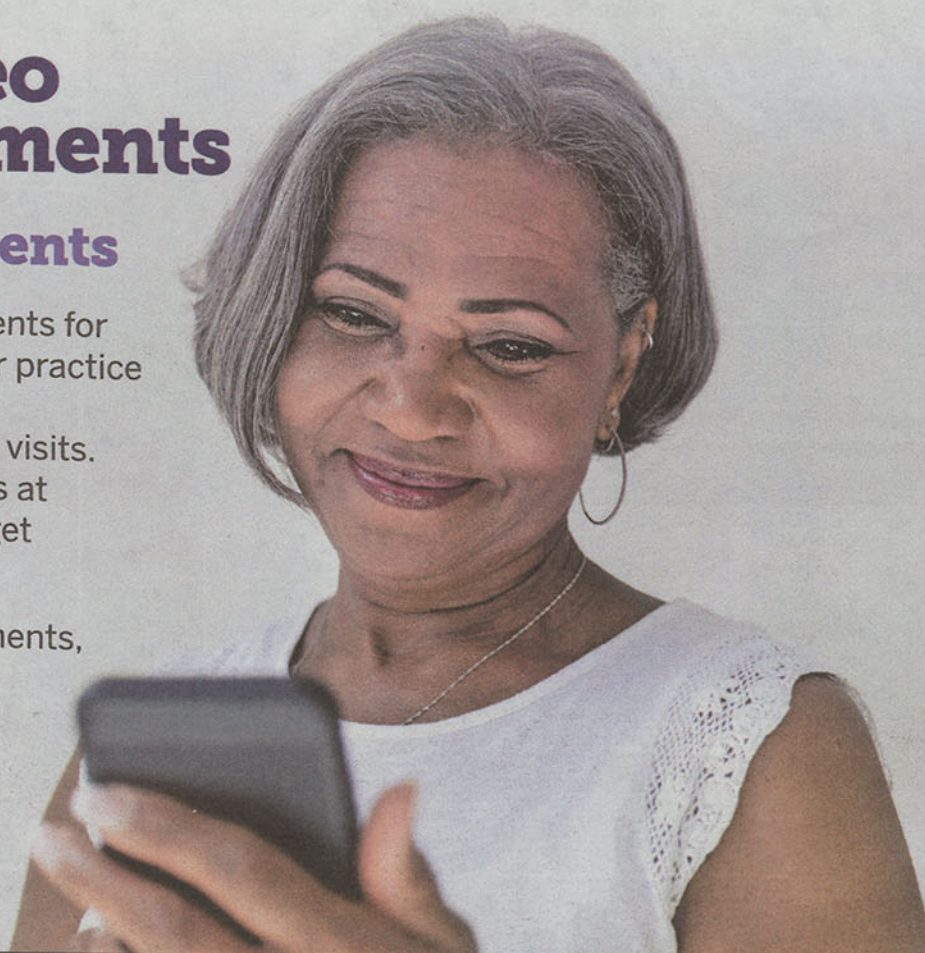
IHA Video Appointments

New + Existing Patients

IHA is now offering video appointments for many types of care! Simply call your practice and schedule a video appointment just like you've scheduled in-person visits. Don't have an IHA physician? Call us at **844.IHA.DOCS** and we'll help you get connected to a physician near you.

To learn more about video appointments, visit: **IHAcares.com/myvideo**

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grocers, **mailcarriers**, CAREGIVERS,
BUILDING ENGINEERS, cooks and
delivery drivers, to the **police** and
firefighters, and **EVERYONE** who
is moving ANN ARBOR forward.

Thank you.

